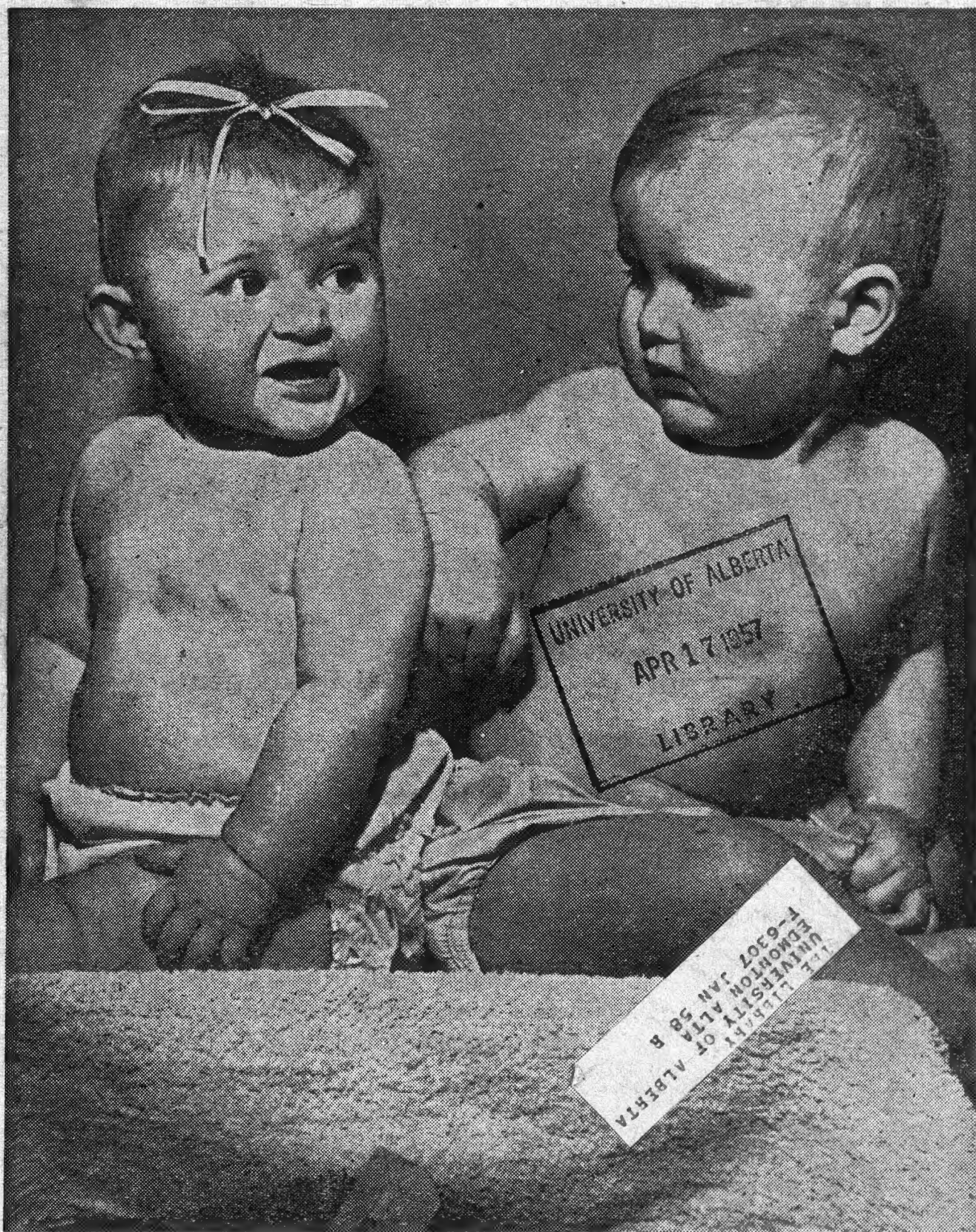


Farm and Ranch Review

VOLUME LIII
NUMBER 4.

CALGARY, ALBERTA
APRIL, 1957



Blue Ribbon Babies

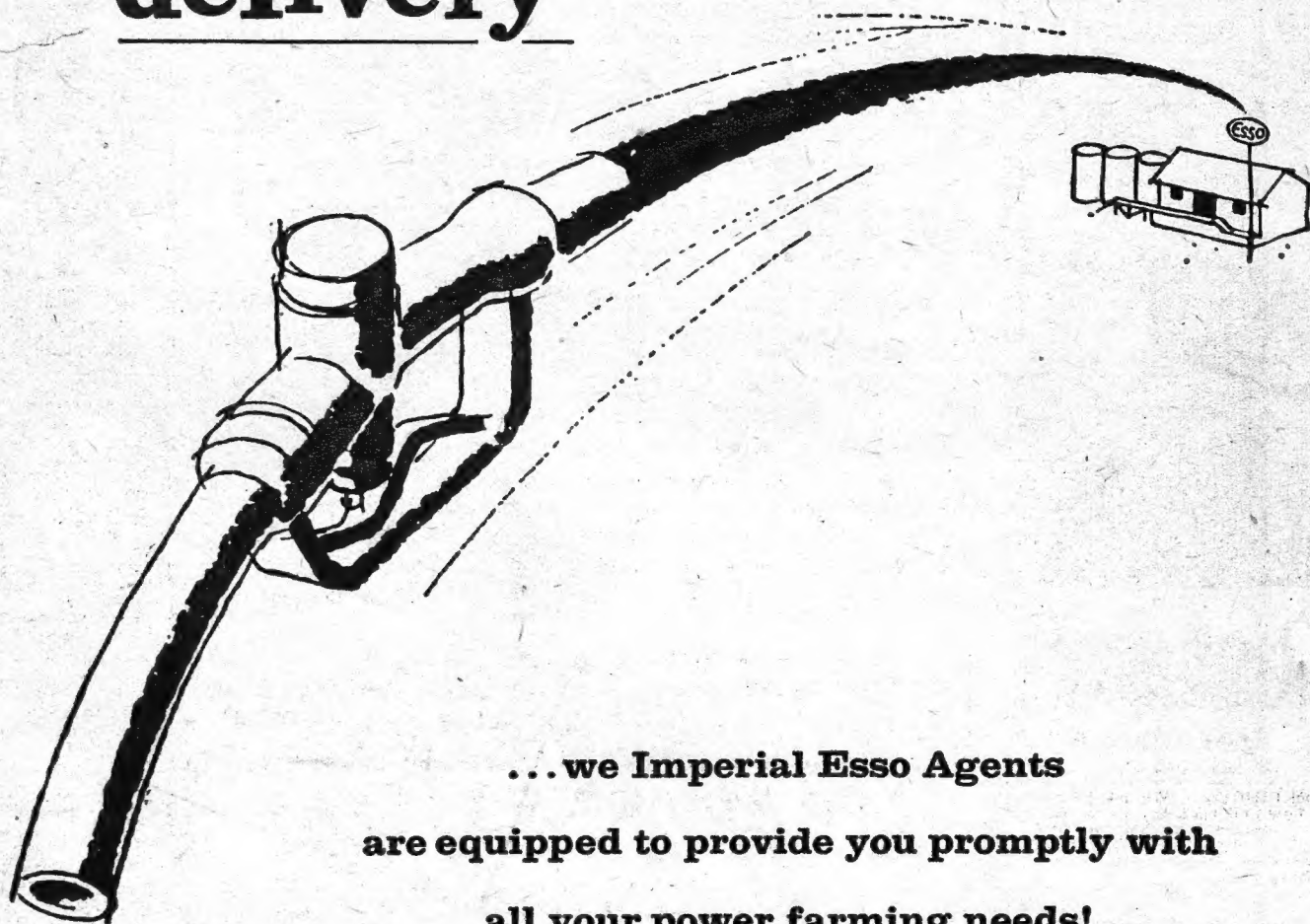
Barbara Jane Stephen, left, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Stephen of Midnapore, and Paul Glen Randle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Randle of High River.

The two healthy looking youngsters were selected as best girl and boy babies over 31 competitors from farm homes in the Calgary area.

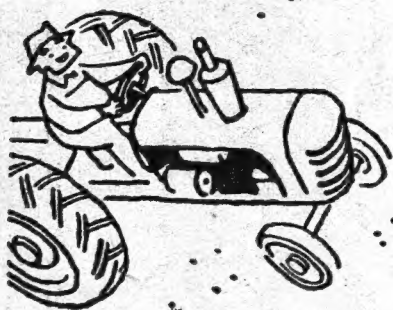
The baby contest was part of the Calgary Agricultural Short Course. See page 7.

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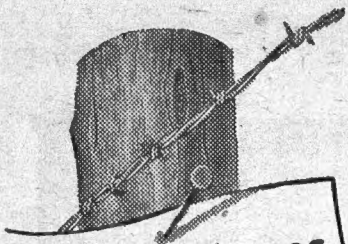


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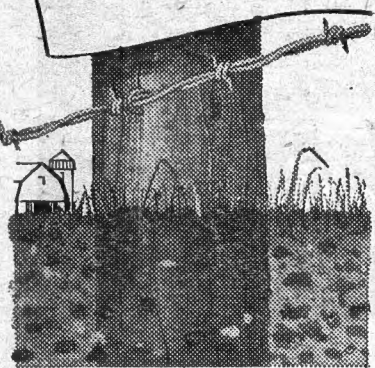
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Farm and Ranch Review

Western Canada's Pioneer Agricultural Magazine
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RATES: Ninety cents per agate line. CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING, 12c per word
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Anyone, young or old, with spare time on their hands, can make good money by canvassing for subscriptions for The Farm and Ranch Review.

This farm publication is widely known and it will not take much per-
suasion to sell it. It is the best bargain in the farm field.

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Leonard D. Nesbitt
Editor.

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Last October, with spring coming on in Little America, thirty-eight massive sleds began snaking their way across shelf ice, carrying hundreds of tons of supplies on a rigorous

600-mile trek to a U.S. geophysical expedition at an outpost near the South Pole. The sleds were especially designed and built right here in Canada. Essential parts of the sleds are

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Lifeline for Antarctic Expedition

Ductile iron, a research development of Inco, is used for parts on Canadian-made sleds carrying supplies to South Pole.

For generations, metallurgists and foundrymen had been trying to develop a metal as strong as steel and as easy to cast as ordinary grey iron.

After years of research, Inco metallurgists came up with the answer in the development of ductile iron.

Ductile iron is a type of cast iron that can be twisted and bent without breaking. It has many other remarkable characteristics. For example, in these heavy duty sleds, used by the South Pole

expedition, the ductile iron parts withstand heavy stresses at temperatures as low as 70° below zero F.

Ductile iron is only one of many important products developed by Inco research. For research is as much a part of Inco's operations as the production of metals.

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Farm and Ranch Review Editorials

The Services Men Render

IT is a common practise with corporations to grant to executives the privilege of buying shares at prices well below market levels. This may not be well known to the general public and hence the commotion over the rights given to N. E. Tanner and C. S. Coates, top men and able men with the Trans-Canada Pipe Line Corporation, to buy 55,000 and 50,000 shares, respectively, at \$8 a share, while the public offering called for \$10, and the price has subsequently risen substantially. These shares are now worth around \$23.

Men heading the Westcoast Transmission Corporation obtained shares therein at around 5c apiece, and the current value is around \$35.00. Almost every oil and mining company followed the same practise. Those who got in on what is known as the "ground floor" got the cream. Industrial corporations follow the same trend, although probably on not as lavish a scale as in oil and mining.

This editorial, however, is not intended as a discussion of the rights and wrongs of such methods of corporation operation. We leave that to the stockholders, the general public and the consciences of the people who are benefitted financially.

What inspired this editorial was reflection on the rewards of the top men in the farm co-operative movement in Western Canada, those who direct the affairs of the successful grain, dairying, livestock, poultry, fruit and other co-operatives. While devoting their abilities and the best years of their lives to making a success of the operations they direct, they never get any such perquisites such as available to top officials in big private corporations.

Being better acquainted with the Wheat Pool movement through long association therewith we can quote instances therefrom. In the early years there were C. H. Burnell and Paul Bredt, in Manitoba, Alex McPhail and Louis Brouillette in Saskatchewan, Henry Wise Wood and Lew Hutchinson in Alberta — all able, public-spirited men, now passed into the Great Beyond, who devoted their lives to the movement with meagre financial reward.

Ben S. Plumer, now chairman of the board of directors of the Alberta Wheat Pool, has given half his lifetime to this tremendously important movement. George Bennett, before him, was another devoted co-operative leader who gave years to the movement. In Saskatchewan, J. H. Wesson has carried on the traditions of A. J. McPhail in a striking successful way with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. With Manitoba Pool Elevators, W. J. Parker, as president, has shown aggressive, far-sighted leadership.

What all these men got, or are getting, in the way of monetary compensation would be a joke to the top men of corporations of even smaller size and much less importance. But they have a sense of duty to farm people, a devotion to the co-operative movement and an inbred altruism which more than compen-

sates for lack of "rights to buy shares cheaply" and other perquisites granted to men in private businesses. And these men in the co-operative movement are people of proven business ability and long experience.

While we have singled out the Wheat Pool movement as an illustration in this editorial, other co-operatives have leaders who have given of their time and efforts just as freely and with as comparatively little rewards.

We are saying these things because we think it is time they were said. Frank appreciation for well-deserved achievements is more timely in life than flowers after death. Farm people should be aware of, and appreciative of, the unstinting toil and effort on their behalf being provided by devoted leaders in the farm co-operative movement.

★

Canada Faces Tough Competition

THE wheat exporting policy of the United States has been costing Canada the overseas sale of around 50,000,000 bushels a year over the past two crop years. The results of the operations this crop year may present an even darker picture as far as this country is concerned. Through cut prices, acceptance of foreign currencies, barter arrangements, free gifts and long-time credit sales, the United States seems to be out to capture the world wheat export markets. Canadian wheat farmers are going to suffer as a result. Wheat exportation in heavy volume is vitally important to Canada's economy.

Among all the nations of the world Canada is the best friend and best customer of the United States. Canadian imports from the U.S. last year totalled \$4,169,200,000 and exports thereto \$2,879,100,000, leaving an adverse trade balance to this country of \$1,290,100,000.

While Mr. Benson has stated that his country's method of wheat exporting has not greatly harmed Canada, Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, our federal minister of trade and commerce, has expressed an entirely different opinion. George McIvor, chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, has not been backward in pointing out the seriousness of United States' competition. C. B. Davidson, secretary of the Board, said in an address given at Portland, Oregon, that the top grade of United States wheat was being offered for export at cut prices, being as much as 33¼c under Canada's top wheat price.

Wheat exports from the U.S. have reached around 350,000,000 bushels since July 1, 1956, or over twice the total for the same period in the previous crop year. The nations that have been heavy importers of U.S. wheat this crop year include Great Britain, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and other countries which have in the past been substantial importers of Canadian wheat.

Canada is being hurt with the U.S. exporting program. Make no mistake about that. And responsibility therefore must be placed on the wheat "dumping" policy of the United States government.

Back Talk From The Farmer

A FARMER who is not using the best and most economical methods of production is not entitled to what he claims is a fair share of the national income. So says Dean McCalla of the faculty of agriculture, University of Alberta.

Why not apply the same rule to every occupational group in this Dominion of Canada? No other sector of the population is making a greater contribution than the people who produce the nation's food.

Wallace's Farmer (Iowa) relates that just after a famed college research man had outlined how pork production could be made a lot more efficient with some elaborate new equipment, a farmer, known far and wide for his successful ways with hogs, arose to make a few comments. He explained with considerable vigor that while his equipment maybe wasn't the very latest it enabled him to finish good hogs with reasonable efficiency. He admitted he probably could do better with new equipment and methods but to cover the extra investment he would have to produce more hogs. And that, he maintained, was just what should not be done.

The editorial goes on to say that if U.S. farmers in 1956 had produced with 1940 efficiency net farm income might have been from 50% to 75% higher. Even with the extra farmers in 1940, the net farmer might have been 20% to 30% better off.

Says Wallace's farmer: "Farmers are getting pretty tired of that re-echoing refrain, 'get more efficient . . . more efficient . . . more efficient.' The research people at Ames university have already begun to think on this matter of re-direction. It is not any too soon either."

★

Food Will Be Plentiful If The Price Is Paid

"WOULD the world a hundred years hence be able to feed its 6,000,000,000 people? Yes, if the people offer enough money for their food."

That question and answer is credited to a British scientist and it brings the subject down to a realistic position. If urban people expect to get enough food they must either pay more for it or else cut the costs down to a parity level of the goods and services farm people need.

Urban people seem to think they are a preferred class. They have the idea that they must be well paid for their work, that their pay must be constantly increasing, and that they are entitled to bargain prices for their food.

At the same time they demand that most of their food should be expensively processed and packaged, and that the people who do such work, and sell and deliver the food, must be well remunerated. The costs of such processing, packing, selling and delivery are now the predominant factor in the consumer costs of most foods.

As the population of the world increases the demand for food will grow. But the food will not be available if people expect to obtain it on a bargain basis.

The Marketing Of Livestock

FROM the very beginnings of livestock production in Western Canada marketing has been a matter of concern to the producer. The common method in use in earlier times was for buyers to circulate throughout the country and make individual deals. This proved unsatisfactory to those in the production of the animals. The next advance was the stockyards system where buyers dealt with commission men who represented the producers.

Selling through commission firms on stockyards has the advantage, as far as the producer is concerned, of setting competitive prices. Buyers must bid against each other to obtain the animals they require, and so price levels are determined.

Certain factors have intruded into such a sales method in recent years, the main one being the rail grading of hogs. The majority of hog producers are now finding it more convenient to sell direct to the packing houses. The federal government marketing service reports that in 1956 88% of all hogs delivered in Canada went direct to packing houses. That meant that 12% of the total deliveries went through stockyards and actually established the prices for all hog deliveries.

The same trend was in evidence with other kinds of livestock. In 1956 Cattle shipped direct to plants was 35.5% of total deliveries, compared with 37.6% in 1955.

The producer is the individual who

finally determines what system of marketing will be maintained. If the current trend in marketing hogs, calves, sheep and lambs continue, cattle will likely follow and a point will eventually be reached where price making at stockyards will be ineffective.

As long as demand continues strong and prices are relatively profitable producers will follow their individual ideas in marketing livestock, notwithstanding any arguments in favor of stockyard marketing. But if a price slump comes along producer opinion is likely to undergo a quick right-about. Then will come a demand for government marketing boards with the expectation that such will return bargaining power to producers — a power lost through failure to patronize stockyard selling.

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Take another look at that price tag. It represents by far the greatest dollar value in tractors anywhere. It is less per horsepower than you paid for the International W6 (standard of the west!) six years ago. But the Wheatland Special is built for today — built with thorough first-hand knowledge of the 1957 tractor power-and-price requirements of the average size western farm. Built to traditional International Harvester high standards — to use the W6 equipment you may already have — and to be your rugged, dependable, economical power-source for years to come.

Diesel or gasoline. Torque amplifier is standard equipment. A full line of options include 1, 2 or 3 valve Hydra-Touch hydraulics, power steering and many more, to tailor the Wheatland Special to your operations.

You be the judge. Get all the facts and make all comparisons. When you have weighed the evidence, you won't want to buy any tractor until you have thoroughly proved the Wheatland Special. Your IH Dealer is the man to see.

BIGGER!
New International W450
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Torque Amplifier Drive. Increased power. Improved Hydra-Touch. Gasoline, LP or Diesel.

BIGGER STILL!
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INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED, HAMILTON, ONTARIO

INTERNATIONAL  HARVESTER

Prize Babies

Barbara Jane was born June 9, 1956, is 27 inches tall and weighs 19 pounds 10 ounces.

Paul Glen Randle was born February 12, 1956, is 32½ inches tall and weighs 24 pounds 12 ounces.

Three years ago Paul's brother, Craig, was a first-prize boy baby in this contest.

In answering advertisements, mention The Farm and Ranch Review. It is helpful.

The latest figures on Australia's population, 9,479,191.

THE MEMO PAD

Feeders' Day at the University of Alberta, Saturday, June 1.

Convention of Canadian Seed Growers' Association, June 19, 20 and 21, at Banff, Alberta.

CONTEST WINNER

W. A. Spooner, of Acme, Alberta, was the winner of the lucky license contest put on by the President Electric Co. There were 1,600 entrants.

Sales of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. in Saskatchewan last year totalled \$46,051,000, an increase of 10½% over the previous business year. Sales of petroleum products alone totalled \$21½ million.

The cost of producing wheat in Australia in 1955-56 as determined by a governmental survey was placed at \$1.43 (Canadian money) a bushel. That is 8c a bushel above the 1954-55 costs. The home consumption price was raised to \$1.47.

FIRST CONSIDERATION

At the hospital:
"Isn't it wonderful, George! Except for where you went through the windshield the car is scarcely damaged at all!"

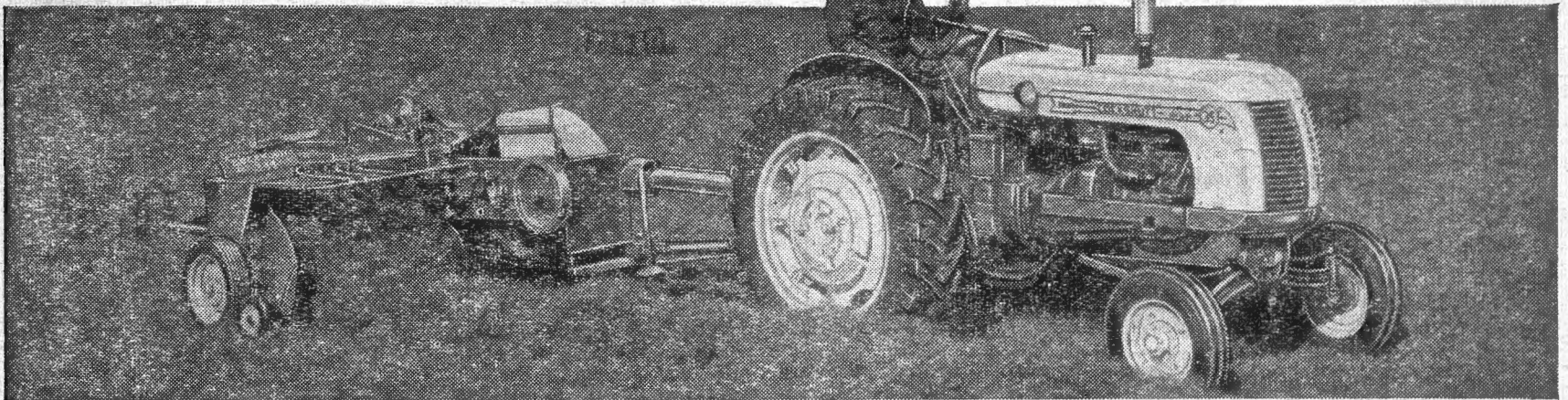
SHE KNEW THE GUY!

Wife, reading husband's fortune card from a penny scale: "You are a leader of men, with a magnetic personality and strong character. You are intelligent, witty, and attractive to the opposite sex . . . It has your weight wrong, too."

Look to Cockshutt for record breaking performance

**Cut haying hours,
effort, dollars**

This year of all years see Cockshutt's trend-setting new line of Grass Equipment. . . . Get demonstration proof of Cockshutt's faster haying, lower leaf loss superiority.



Cockshutt "35" and New "344" Baler

New

Cockshutt "344" baler

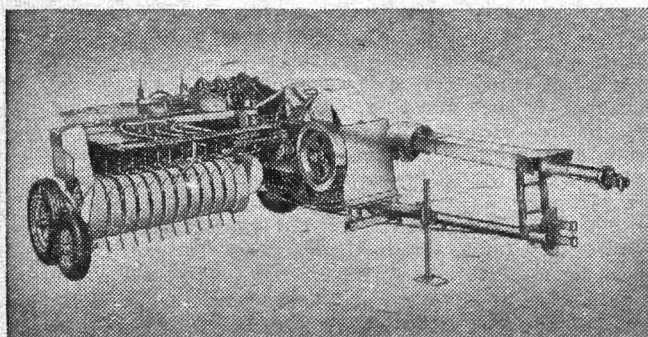
Packs more food value into every bale . . .

Consistently bales up to 11 tons per hour . . . P.T.O. or engine drive models.

Features: Improved side fork delivery, ensures gentle hay handling . . . less breakage and leaf loss, dependable economical operation.

The new Cockshutt Baler gobbles up big windrows fast . . . is compact in design and is easily

operated by one man — there are less moving parts and hay is handled more gently from pick-up fingers to tied bale, minimizing breakage and leaf loss. The unique "Twine Tension Release" unit ensures securely tied uniform bales every time. See, also, Cockshutt's "325" Baler, designed for custom work and big acreages!



Yes, this year Cockshutt has the Big new models . . . the Big new features . . . the Big new improvements to make the Big cash difference in your Hay Harvest Program.

This year for the finest in Grassland Equipment see your local Cockshutt dealer . . . see him now during his Big Cockshutt Grassland Jamboree of Big Feature Values for the best buy in town!

For Tractor Power — see Cockshutt's Deluxe line of seven great new tractors! They give you more usable power — the finest live power take-off on the market . . . the best balanced engine-transmission combination in the field, plus many more step-ahead tractor features to meet the needs of any farmer — at prices that absolutely mean greater value for every dollar invested.

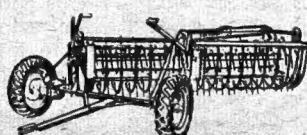
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Farm Equipment Limited

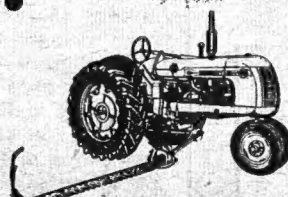
Brantford, Canada

Buy Canadian Buy Cockshutt

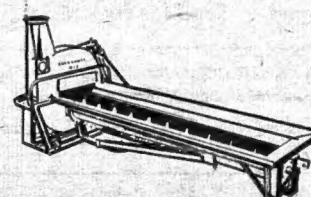
The only tractor line made in Canada by Canadians for Canadian farming



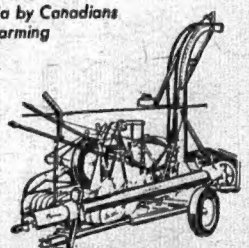
Cockshutt "310" Rake



Cockshutt Kosh "321" Mower — also see "15AS"



Cockshutt "412" Crop Blower



Cockshutt "411" Forage Harvester

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Please send free booklet.

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Address.....

City..... Prov.....

HOW TO CHOOSE AND USE HEARING GLASSES

Steel Bins for Grain Storage

Gordon Burton, Liberal candidate in the Macleod constituency, in an address at Vulcan, suggested that one solution to the grain storage congestion would be the construction by the federal government of 75,000,000 bushels of steel storage bins at country delivery points throughout the west where congestion was the greatest. He claims that such could be erected for 25c a bushel, and, when congestion conditions ended, could readily be disposed of, and at prices that would entail no great loss financially.

It cost 10c a bushel to carry wheat in store for one year. Mr. Burton says the cost of the steel bins could be recovered at that rate in 2½ years. They would enable a lot more grain to be delivered, and in that way provide farmers with needed cash, and make unnecessary the selling of wheat for feeding at as low as 60c a bushel, and prevent abuse of the quota system of marketing.

The Chinook—Southern Alberta's Own Wind

By JOE BALLA

THERE was a time, a long time ago, that Southern Alberta had sole claim to one of the weather forecaster's most disconcerting adherents — the Chinook. While other regions of the world have their warm winds, the Chinook is native to, and is the sole property of, Southern Alberta.

Both scientifically and traditionally, this balmy westerly breeze belongs to this little corner of the prairies located at the mouth of the Crow's Nest Pass of the Rocky Mountains.

To really understand what we are talking about, one must have either lived in or been a visitor to Southern Alberta when a Chinook came sweeping down off the Rocky Mountains and spread itself out over the south country, melting the snow and ice in its path if it was wintertime, or burn up the crops if it came in the middle of summer.

According to the weather experts, who have found it almost impossible to forecast the wind, the Chinook actually originates over the Pacific Ocean. As the wind sweeps up the coast of British Columbia, it collects moisture and is then forced up the western slopes of the Rockies. When the wind reaches a certain point in the atmosphere over the Rockies, or where the air becomes saturated and can no longer hold the moisture the tiny particles of water condense and drop as rain or snow on the rugged peaks.

Then the dry Chinook funnels through the Crow's Nest Pass as it begins its long drop into Southern Alberta. As the wind charges down the sides of the mountains and the foothills, it becomes compressed by the heavier atmosphere and it is heated at the rate of approximately five degrees for every thousand feet of descent.

If it is strong enough, this superheated wind will displace the air at the foot of the mountains and go streaking across the land, sending thermometers spiralling dizzily upward. However, often the air at the foot of the mountains is stubborn and will not move. If this happens the merry whistling Chinook shoots skyward again until it can find a level where it can displace the colder air.

Often during the winter months a balmy Chinook will hover only 500 feet over Southern Alberta, while the air and land below is locked in the icy grip of winter. Sometimes it will be two thousand feet up — but at whatever altitude its location may be, it is always seeking ground level.

Chinook Eccentricities

Airline pilots unacquainted with the antics of these high-flying Chinooks have often landed at Lethbridge and left their planes, talking to themselves and wondering if their flying days were over. One such pilot not long ago was approaching the Lethbridge airport at 1,100 feet and checking his instruments he noted that his thermometer read a chilly eight below. A sudden updraft shot his plane about 75 feet upwards. Re-checking his instruments, everything appeared to be in order except the thermometer which now registered 53 above. Not believing what he saw he edged his plane down to the 1,100-foot level again. Eight below. Still thinking there must be something wrong with the thermometer the air-jockey climbed up in the air again. Fifty-three above! He checked several times again and each time within the span of 75 feet his thermometer registered a drop and a rise of 61 degrees.

Many cities and towns have seen the Chinook's phenomena. On Jan. 8, 1953, Lethbridge was basking in a Chinook, with the temperature hover-

ing around the 41 above mark at noon. Without warning the Chinook pulled out as if chased by the icy fangs of some monster from the north. By 6:30 that evening the temperature was at zero. At midnight it was 4 below. Shortly after midnight the wayward Chinook, evidently feeling the pangs of its conscience, returned to the city and by 2:30 a.m. the temperature was hugging the 43 above mark.

The arrival of a Chinook is most pronounced during the winter months and it is also that time of the year that the disconcerting habits of this woefully vagrant wind is noticed as it meanders around the country — leaving one spot in the clutches of frigid weather at the same time forcing the residents of a neighboring town to shed their long johns. Many times Lethbridge has been shivering in 10 below weather while Raymond and Magrath, 16 miles to the south, were splashing around in the 45 above range.

The weather forecaster will tell you that the Chinook is practically impossible to forecast due to its nocturnal visiting habits, and when the weatherman does chance to predict one in advance, it is just as likely to go floating through the stratosphere as at ground level. For this reason South Albertans have developed their own system of predicting this phenomena of Nature as well as the weather.

The Sign of the Wind

The scientifically-trained explorers of the universe refuse to accept the sign of the Chinook Arch in Southern Alberta as that of a coming Chinook. But to South Albertans the Arch and the Chinook are as synonymous as a full moon and a twinkle in a pretty girl's eye are to a young man in spring.

The Chinook Arch is a quarter circle poking up over the horizon. The inner part of the circle is blue sky and around it are furled the ruffled clouds. It always appears in the evening. When its presence is noticed, South Albertans do their own forecasting for the following day. If it is not visible they listen to the radio or read the paper.

Southern Alberta Indians offer a much more colorful solution to the phenomena of the Chinook. According to Indian legend and folklore, "Chinook" was originally a fair Indian princess who wandered off into the Rockies and became lost. Having been a popular lass, her disappearance caused great concern in the camp, and all the braves for miles around immediately set out in search of her.

When they reached the mountains, the princess was nowhere to be found. But the story goes that the fair maiden eventually led the braves to her by her warm breath which came wafting down the slope of the mountain. The braves apparently became so enamoured by the warm caress of the wind that they never returned home and were counted among the lost from that time on.

Lethbridgeites didn't mind when Calgarians and Medicine Hatters muscled in on the glory of the Chinook, but lately Great Falls, Montana, to the south and Dawson Creek in the Yukon have also decided to become beneficiaries.

That was the last straw. Now South Albertans have decided to declare themselves as the sole claimants to the mighty Chinook — for only in this little corner of the prairies does that warm wind utter a merry whistling tune as it laps up the incense of the wild flowers and spreads it out over the land for all to get a breath of spring.

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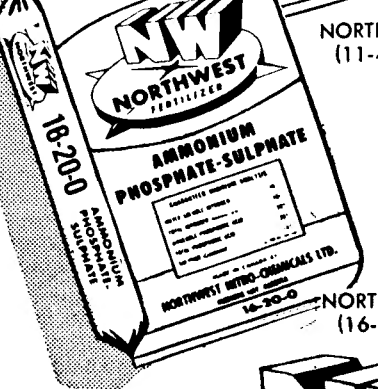
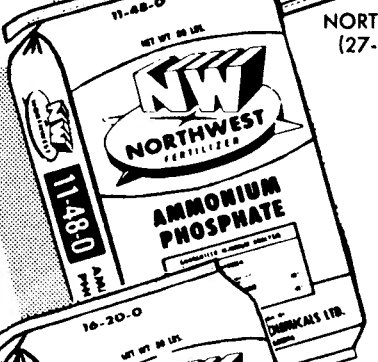
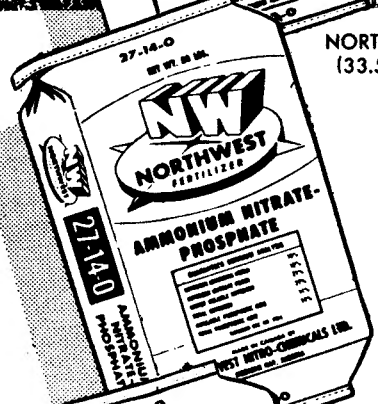
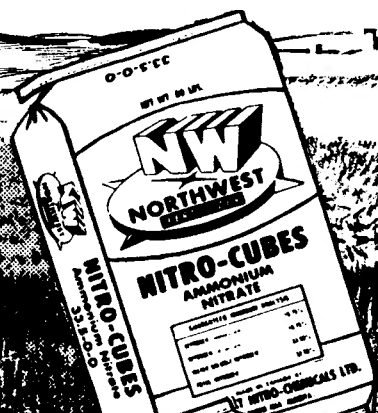
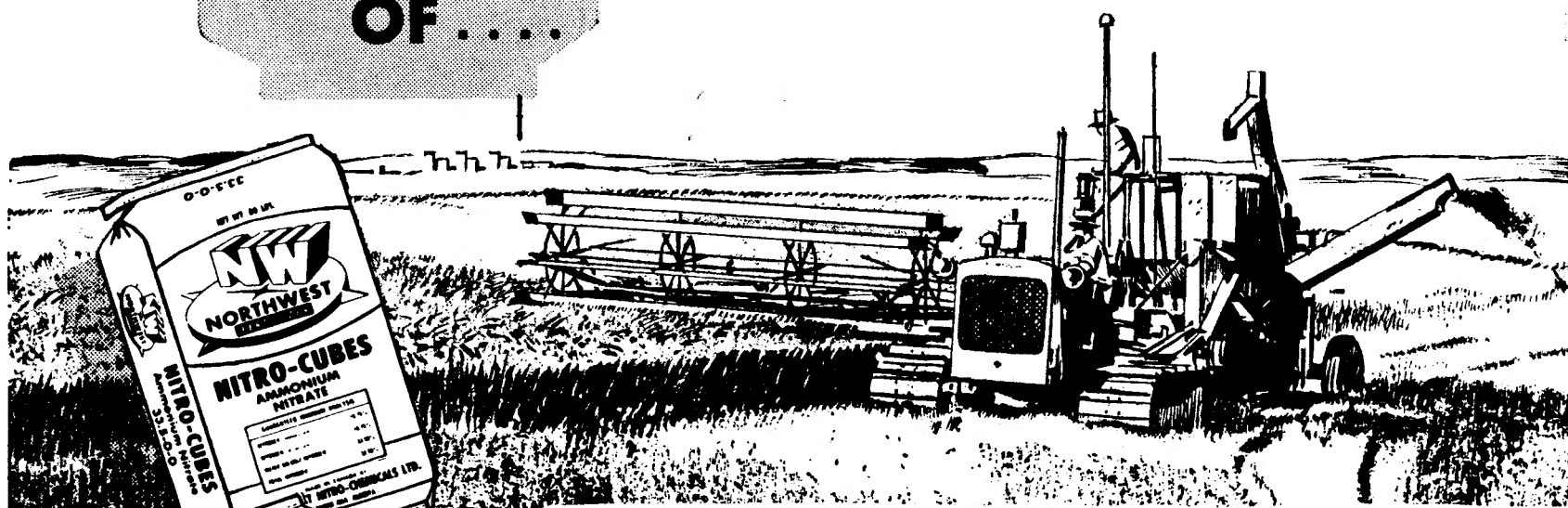
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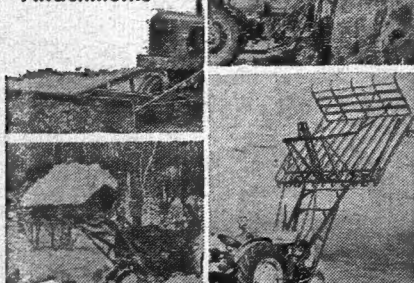
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U. F. A. Co-Op. Buys Maple Leaf Oil Co.

Progressive Alberta Farmer Association Completes Million-Dollar Deal with Imperial Oil Co.

THIS is the story of an Alberta farmers' distributive co-operative which started in business on borrowed capital in the hungry mid-1930's, is now the third largest distributor of petroleum products in this province, and was able to complete a million-dollar deal for the purchase of the Maple Leaf Oil Co. from Imperial Oil Co. a few weeks ago.

The United Farmers' Co-operative Limited is the name of the association. It was organized in 1935 by the parent body, the United Farmers of Alberta, the farmer educational body which eventually became merged with the Farmers' Union of Alberta. Its 25,000 farmer members now have an equity in the co-operative of \$2,000,000; it has a working capital of a million dollars; it handled sales of 27,500,000 gallons of petroleum products last year, and it also sells to local associations weed sprayers, grain loaders, lumber, posts, cement, electrical goods, radios, television sets, hardware, seed dressings and a full general line of farm supplies.

Farmer members benefit through the buying power of this big co-operative, also by the opportunity provided for building up an equity in the association and through cash patronage dividends. One southern Alberta farmer received a dividend for \$130.00 from his purchases of petroleum products last year.

Since the U.F.A. Co-op. Ltd. started in business it has allocated patronage dividends to its members for a total in excess of two million dollars. That is a remarkable record for an association which started in business a little over a quarter of a century ago with a loan of \$12,000.

Now 134 Outlets

The million-dollar deal with the Imperial Oil Co. provided for the purchase by the association of fourteen bulk stations as well as extensive inventories and marketing equipment and Maple Leaf trade brands.

The location of the warehouses and stations: Barrhead, Calgary, Consort, Dewberry, Drumheller, Edmonton, Foremost, Grande Prairie, Nemiskam, Oyen, Ponoka, Rockyford, Strathmore and Taber. The U.F.A. Co-op. Ltd. has now 134 outlets for petroleum products in Alberta and is in a position to operate more efficiently and economically for the benefit of its membership.

To become a member a farmer must purchase one common share at a cost of \$5.00. He must be the owner of 10

common shares before he is entitled to receive patronage dividends in cash, but if he has bought one share his patronage dividends can accumulate and apply against the purchase of other shares until he is the owner of the 10 required to entitle him to cash dividends. In the meantime he has all the privileges of full membership. Some \$487,000 capital has been raised through the sale of the shares.

The outlook from an economic standpoint was not too bright when the co-operative was organized in 1935. It obtained a loan of \$12,000 from the United Grain Growers Co. to buy a property at 125 - 11th Ave. east in Calgary. It now owns half a city block there, with modern buildings erected thereon, the current value being around \$200,000.00. The business consisted of the selling of farm supplies and petroleum products.

In 1942 a store was started in Calgary and the next year one was opened at Medicine Hat. This expansion was continued until 21 co-operative stores were operated in the province, and the turnover was around \$2½ million a year. In 1950 the stores were sold to the Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association, but the distribution of petroleum products and farm supplies was retained.

U.F.A. Co-operative Ltd. operates on a membership control plan. The province is divided into seven zones, on the same pattern as that used by the Alberta Wheat Pool. The members in each zone elect five delegates, making a total of 35. Other farmer associations dealing in distribution through the U.F.A. Co-op. are allotted five directors.

The Personnel

George E. Church, of Balzac, a leader in the farm movement in this province for many years, is president; Jake Frey, of Arneson, vice-president, and other directors: George McLachlin, of Clyde; Mrs. N. D. Lehman, of Camrose; Ray Wood, of Carstairs; Gilmore O'Brien, of Barrhead; George Sayle, of Clairmont, and M. H. Ward, of Arrowwood.

These directors are capable men and they have built up this organization until it has gained the confidence and patronage of a substantial percentage of Alberta farmers.

W. J. Hoppins, a farm youth from Huxley, Alberta, who showed initiative and leadership in the farm movement, was appointed general manager in 1951, succeeding Norman F. Priestley. Mr. Hoppins shows executive ability



George E. Church, president of U.F.A. Co-op. Ltd.



W. J. Hoppins, general manager.

and drive in the upbuilding of the association. Miss E. Birch is secretary.

The U. F. A. Co-operative Ltd. is now in a position to expand and provide exceptional service as well as savings to the farm people of Alberta. With increasing support it can become a powerful arm on behalf of agriculture and an asset of great value to its membership.

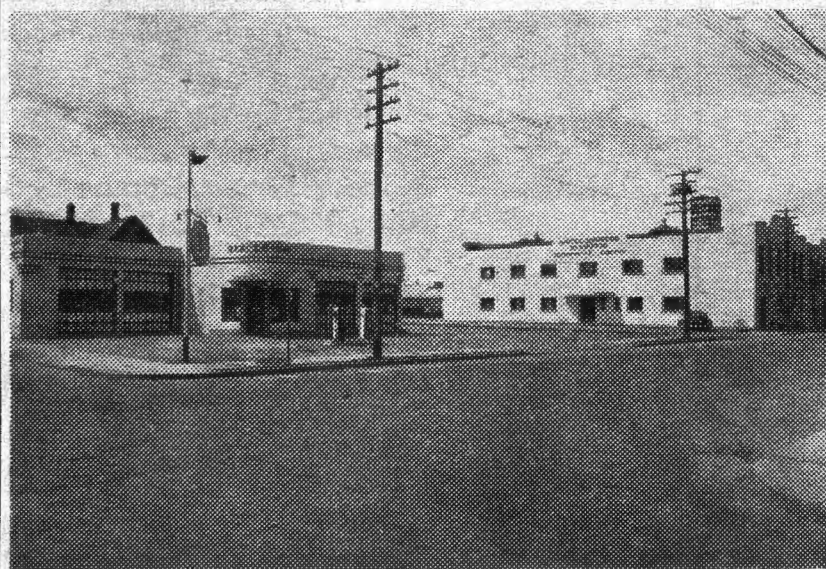
ORDER FORAGE SEED EARLY

Officials at the Lethbridge Experimental Station advise those wishing to establish new stands of forage crops to order their seed early. Due partly to a poor seed crop last year and partly to a fairly high demand in the U.S. because of the Soil Bank Program, there is a shortage of some of the grasses and legumes combined with a marked increase in price of seed.

Alfalfa is still the outstanding hay crop either seeded alone or with other grasses. For dry land, crested wheat-grass is still the most drought-resistant grass, and it provides excellent early spring pasture as well as fall pasture in moist years. Russian wild rye grass is also drought resistant and serves as good summer pasture. A rotational system of grazing using crested wheat-grass in the spring and the Russian wild rye grass in the summer provides continuous grazing. Brome and intermediate wheat-grass can be used in the more moist areas such as the foothills.

"Henry," his wife told him, "It'll be 20 years ago tomorrow that we were married; why not go and kill a couple of those young chickens?"

"Why should I?" said Henry. "It wasn't their fault."



Head office of United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Ltd. at 125 - 11th Avenue East, Calgary, Alberta.

THE LACOMBE HOG

The Lacombe hog was developed as a combination of three breeds, Danish Landrace, Chester White and Berkshire. The purpose of developing this hog was to provide an animal that would be a suitable cross with the Yorkshire hog, the predominant breed in Canada.

A "bar sinister" turned up in breeding when two litters with colored pigs were farrowed by Lacombe females. This was traceable to the Berkshire ancestor which is black. Subsequently all Lacombe boars used in breeding programs have been color checked by crossing them on Berkshire sows. During 1956 all Lacombe sows were also checked with Berkshire boars as a color check on the female side of the herd.

Any Lacombe male or female, which produced colored offspring by these crosses were thus proven to be carriers and have been discarded. The color test will be continued until the entire herd has been proven to be genetically pure for the desired white color.

* * *

R. P. Dixon, the Supervisor of Dairy Cattle Improvement for the Alberta Department of Agriculture reports that tests in the Edmonton area confirm other findings south of the border that high income is closely related to high production per cow. To be successful, in the dairy business, one must first have the right kind of cattle and then feed and manage them in such a way to bring out the inherited production they possess. To

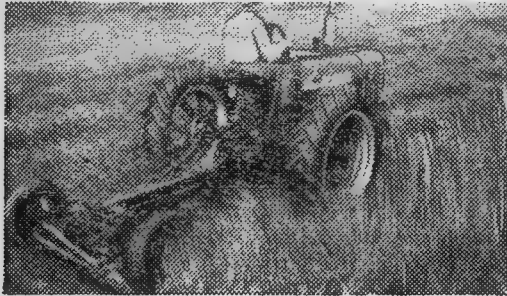
help dairymen find out the production level of their cows the Provincial Government offers a cow-testing service, which is designed primarily for grade herd owners.

Beef carcasses slaughtered in inspected plants averaged 494.8 lbs. in 1956, just one pound less than in 1955. The percentage of grade A and B carcasses in the total of inspected slaughterings was higher in nearly every month of 1956, and for the year was 37.1 per cent compared with 35.4 in 1955. Grade C carcasses made 20.5 per cent of the total and a year earlier were 22.2 per cent. Grade A hogs were up to 28.5 per cent of the total, 1.4 per cent above 1955 and the best since 1952. The improvement in quality was particularly notable in the Maritime Provinces.

Producers of wool and lambs in the U.S.A. will be spending \$150,000 for promotion of their products this coming year, and the American National Cattlemen's Association endorsed a Beef Promotion plan at their convention in Phoenix, Ariz., last week. They hope to establish a ten-cent-per-head deduction at the market place for promotion. The annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture approved the principal of a 5c-per-head deduction on beef cattle marketings for a beef promotion campaign.

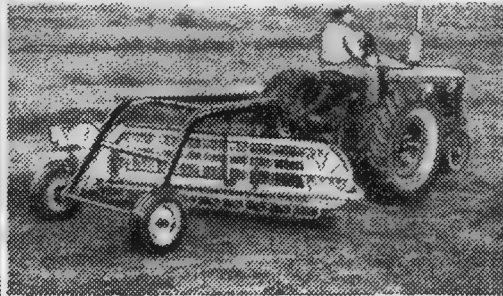
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Beet sugar production in Manitoba in 1956 totalled 62,000,000 lbs., the highest on record.



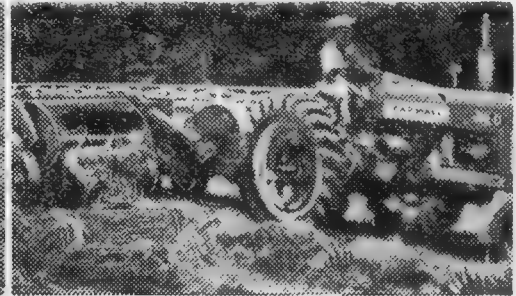
New McCormick No. 32 Trailing Mower

Cut square corners easily... hook up fast. Hydraulically raised or hand-lift 5, 6 or 7-foot cutter bar protected by 45-degree break-away. Heavy-duty precision drive and pitman assure seasons of smooth-running operation. Also, the UF28 Fast-Hitch mower—and the famous McCormick 21-U (Universal) mower.



New McCormick No. 15 Parallel Bar Side Rake

Get gentle, high-speed raking! Rake all your hay when it's ready, season after season, with the new McCormick No. 15—or its Fast-Hitch counterpart the No. 11 FH. Shortest possible hay travel means gentle, leaf-saving action at fastest raking speed. Also the great McCormick No. 5 side rake and other special models.



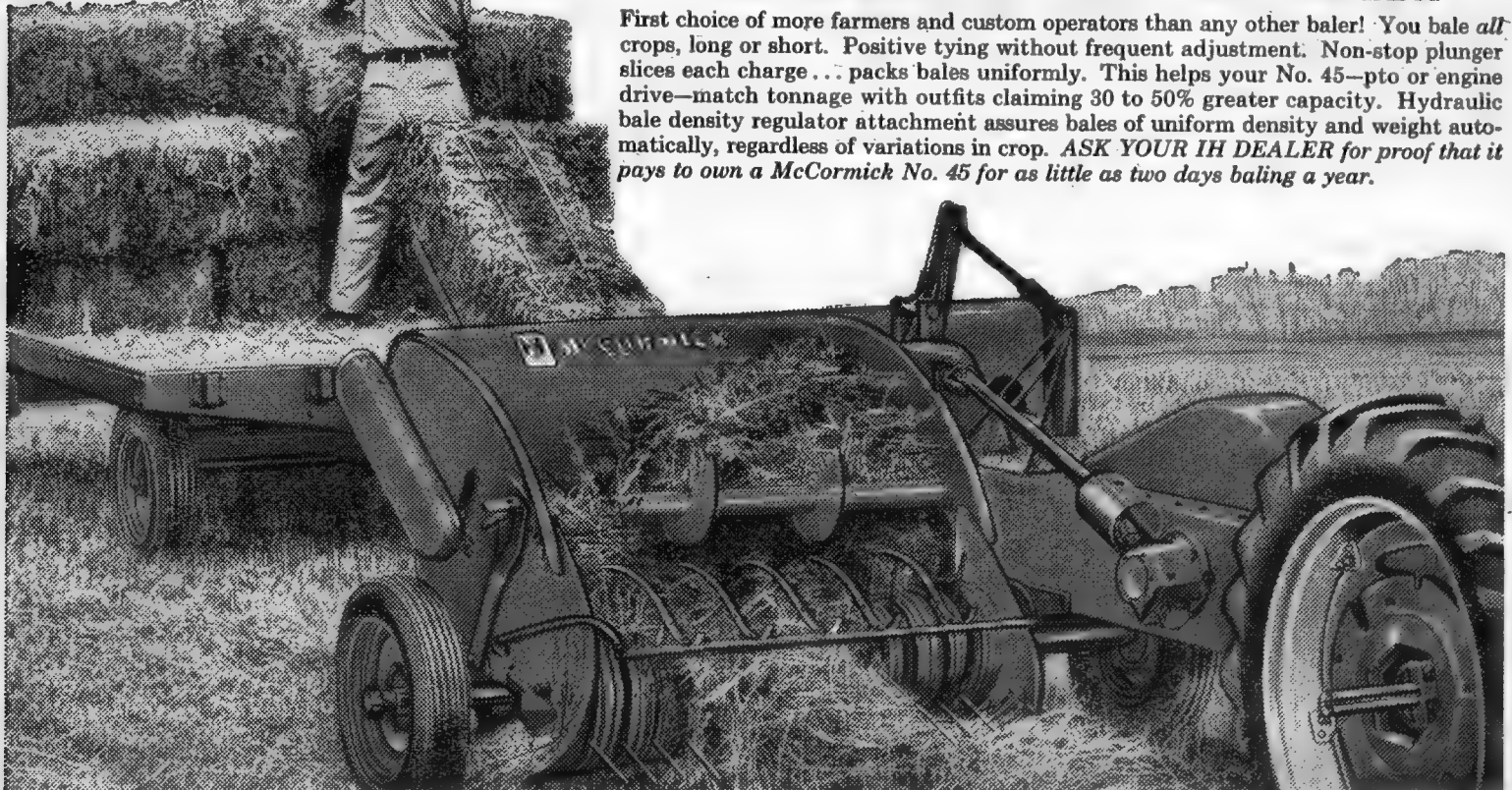
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Get big daily tonnage at new, low cost with pto-driven McCormick No. 55 Baler that you can operate with a 3-plow or larger tractor. Makes the new, neat, heavy "shipping bales". Twine or wire-tying models. Also available with engine-drive, either water or air-cooled. Here's the high-capacity baler for the biggest hay acreage.

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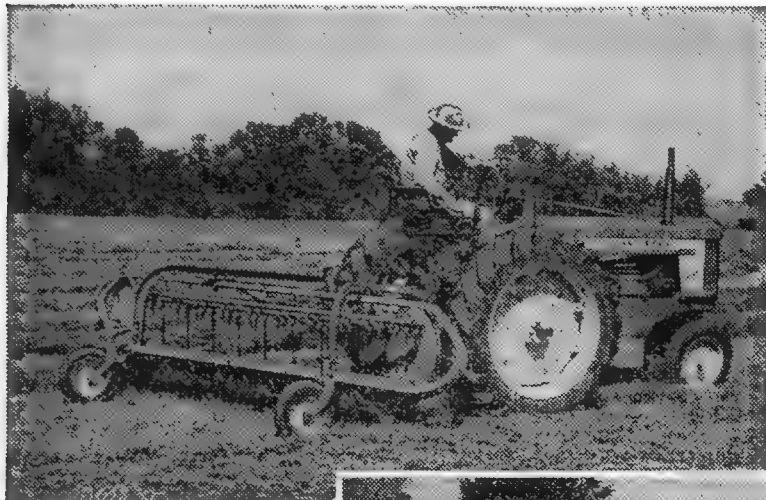
That the short-handed farmer may lick a big haying problem in less time, with less labor, at lowest cost, your International Harvester Dealer proudly presents new McCormick hay tools.

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LOW INITIAL COST . . . high-speed performance . . . leaf-saving crop handling . . . versatility . . . and cost-cutting dependability—that's a quick summary of the outstanding new John Deere 350 PTO Rake.

Rakes 7-Foot Swath

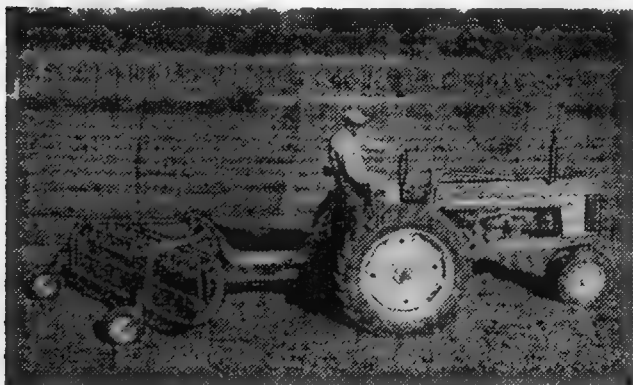
The new 350 rakes a full 7-foot swath—clean. Its right-angle reel moves hay forward 50 per cent less than conventional rakes, saving more leaves. Its 4-bar reel, with less tooth-bar contact, reduces leaf shattering. Teeth are spaced closer together on each bar assuring cleaner raking.

The 3-Point 350 is shown above in the field and in transport. It works with any standard 3-point hitch and with John Deere 800 Series Hitches.

Different tractor gears and throttle settings match the reel speed to the volume of the crop exactly. In leafy crops, the John Deere 350 rakes up to 6½ mph—faster in crops where leaves are no problem.

3-Point or Semi-Integral

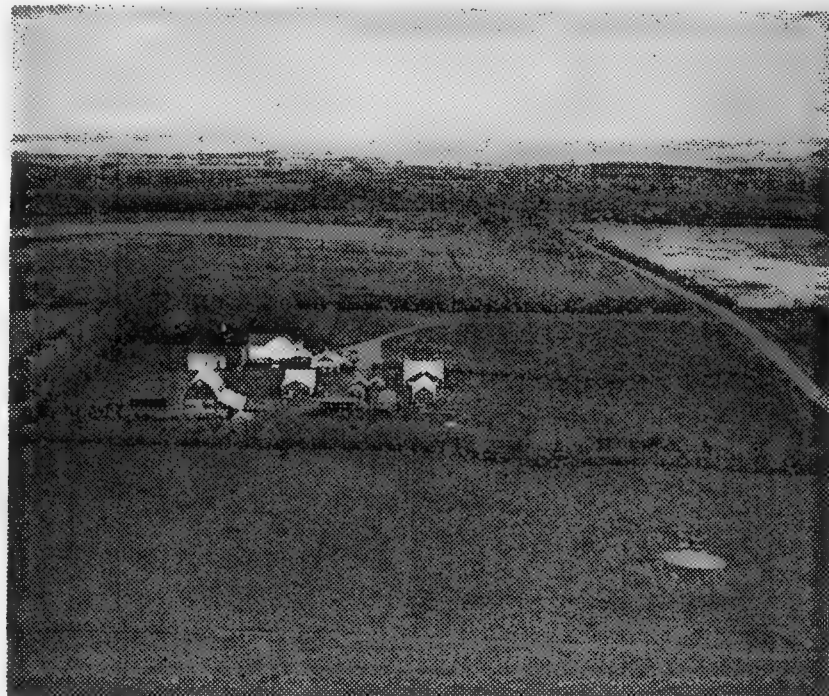
The versatile John Deere 350 Rake is available for 3-point hitch or semi-integral operation. See your John Deere dealer for complete information. Mail coupon today for free folder.



A simple hitch adapts the 3-point 350 to semi-integral operation (left). Hydraulic or manual lift is available. The semi-integral 350 Rake works with any tractor equipped with a standard power take-off.

Treeing Farms on Bald-Headed Prairies

Over a Quarter of a Billion Seedlings Supplied Free of Charge in the Past 55 Years.



Farm home of Gordon Grose, of Clive, Alberta, showing flourishing windbreaks. (Alberta Government Photo.)

William Cullen Bryant, the poet, acclaimed the western prairies as "the gardens of the desert, the unshorn fields, boundless as beautiful."

But the prairie regions of Western Canada were treeless in their original state and seemed rather desolate to the settlers who came in droves in the first decade or so of the present century.

Most of them came from regions which were abounding in tree life and they felt lonesome on the vast stretches of bare plains. Some authorities say that deficient rainfall was responsible for the lack of trees, others maintained prairie fires which swept across the prairies from time to time, killed all the tree growth. Whatever the reason, the prairies were bare of trees, save along river banks or around sloughs. The settlers designated them as the "bald-headed" prairies.

Early in the century the federal government undertook a campaign to encourage tree planting on farms. A forest nursery station was established at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, and subsequently another one at Sutherland, close to Saskatoon. From 1901 to 1956 inclusive 266,254,225 seedling trees have been distributed to farm families in the prairie provinces. There is no charge for the seedling deciduous trees, the only cost to the farmers being shipping charges. There is a small charge for evergreens, as well as the shipping costs.

Trees are supplied for shelter belts, for farm and home, and also around dams and dugouts. Such include caragana, ash, elm, Manitoba maple, Colorado, and white spruces and Scotch pine. Willows and poplars are supplied as uprooted cuttings.

The Value of Shelter Belts

The land on which the trees are to be located must be summer-fallowed the previous year. Application forms should be sent to the station by July of each year, for planting the following spring. About 10,000 applications are received each year.

Farms with shelter belts around homes and along fence lines present an attractive and "home-like" appearance. They also provide protection against high winds and retain moisture in the land. On the Craig Pierce farm at Drumheller in 1949 an 80-

acre strip along a shelter belt yielded 90 bushels of oats to the acre. Further out, beyond the protection of the trees, the oats were poor and uneven and had to be cut for green feed. On the same farm wheat grown close to a shelter belt yielded 19 bushels more to the acre than wheat grown further off.

Shelter belts make a substantial contribution in preventing wind erosion. They should be planted on the side of the farm facing the most prevalent winds.

The Alberta government also encourages tree planting on Alberta farms. Information regarding regulations is obtainable on writing to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, or from District Agriculturists.



Photo by Fred Olsen, Nellburg, Sask. 21-month-old Victor Olsen with his brother's pet goat, "Trixie".

The net debt of the federal government is placed at \$10,997,900,000 as at March 31. This works out at \$670 for each of Canada's 16,400,000 population.

There are about 14,150 beekeepers in Canada, and honey production runs around 25,000,000 lbs. a year with a retail value of \$4,400,000.

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Value of 1956 Field Crops

THE preliminary estimates of the value of Canada's 1956 field crops indicate some improvement over 1955. Based on the average prices received by farmers during the August, 1955-January, 1956, period and based on initial payments only, the total field crop value was \$1,750,000,000. Additional payments on the 1956 western wheat, oats and barley crops may be expected to increase the value over this estimate.

The total value of field crops was only \$1,720,000,000 in 1955, and this figure is a revised one based on total payments. These figures represent the true value of the crops as distinct from merely the cash return to the farmers. Some feed grains are utilized almost wholly on the farms where grown, and although they do not add greatly to the farm cash income, they increase materially the gross value of farm production in field crops.

Here are the total values of Canada's principal field crops, by provinces, in 1956:

Prince Edward Island	\$ 23,730,000
Nova Scotia	\$ 21,233,000
New Brunswick	\$ 30,605,000
Quebec	\$176,832,000
Ontario	\$319,713,000
Manitoba	\$187,091,000
Saskatchewan	\$587,081,000
Alberta	\$371,882,000
British Columbia	\$ 31,841,000
Canada	\$1,750,008,000

FLAX VARIETIES

There appears to be fair opportunity for flax production this coming season, and the annual conference of Manitoba Agronomists has this to say regarding the different varieties available. Raja matures a few days earlier than Marine and Sheyenne. Marine will usually outyield Raja when early seeding is practised. For delayed seedings Raja is more satisfactory—usually outyielding Marine or Sheyenne. Raja increases in height as seeding is delayed. Norland is a selection from Victory and is superior to Victory in uniformity and rust resistance. It is subject to natural crossing and thus difficult to keep pure unless grown under very strict isolation. Redwood and Rocket are good late varieties. Redwood has superior yield and is consequently more popular.

Despite these considerations, flax growers are strongly urged to consult their Provincial Departments of Agriculture re the varieties best suited.

LOYALTY (Selected)

I've never known a dog to wag his tail in friendly glee he did not feel; nor quit his oldtime friend to tag at some more influential heel. The yellowest cur I ever knew was to the boy who loved him, true.

I've never known a dog to show halfway devotion to his friend; to seek a kinder man to know—or favor; but until the end, the humblest I ever knew was, to the man who owned him, true.

I've never known a dog to fake affection for some personal gain; a false display of love to make, some little favor to attain. I've never known a Prince or Spot to try to be what he was not.

And I have known a dog to bear starvation's pangs from day to day, with him who had been glad to share his bread and meat along the way. No dog, however, mean or rude, is guilty of ingratitude.

In 1956 production of hay in Canada totalled 20,278,000 tons, valued at \$313,070,000.

Fertilizer Recommendations

THE Saskatchewan Advisory Fertilizer Council has published its recommendations for application of fertilizers on this season's cereal crops. For cereal grains on summer-fallow, the Council recommends ammonium phosphate 11-48-0 at 30 to 60 pounds per acre on most soils, with the lower rates used on sandy soils or light loams, and the higher rates on the heavier clay soils.

On the brown soils of Western Saskatchewan, fertilizer is recommended only on the heavy clay soils for summerfallow crops. On the lighter soils of the southwest, fertilizer may be particularly profitable in areas subject to erosion.

The grey soils in northern and northwestern regions of Saskatchewan are short on organic matter and nitrogen, and rotations of legumes or grass-legume mixtures should be used here. If legumes are not used in these grey soils, the high nitrogen fertilizer recommended is ammonium phosphate, 16-20-0 at 70-100 pounds per acre.

Last year's tests showed a need for more nitrogen on stubble crops, but since most of the results have been obtained in years of good moisture, the Council's recommendations are definite for only the black, greyish black and grey soils in the park belt and wooded areas of Saskatchewan. The recommended fertilizers for stubble are therefore 16-20-0 and 27-40-0 with suggested rate of 75 to 100 pounds per acre. Broadcast applications of nitrogen before seeding have also given good results, with special rates of application.

SANGASTE RYE

Sangaste is the name of a new variety of fall rye being distributed by the department of Plant Science, University of Alberta. Stocks are limited and a committee will allocate seed to those applicants considered the most suitable.

Sangaste rye was developed in Estonia and brought to the U.S.A. by R. R. Berg in 1951. In four years of testing it has consistently outyielded Dakold, but is a week later in maturing. It has a large, attractive kernel, produces abundant vegetative growth and seems to be well adapted to central Alberta.

INCREASE IN FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PLAN

The percentage of the cost of freighting feed grains to Eastern Canada and British Columbia has been increased by the federal government to cover the increase in freight rates granted to the railways last year. This was announced in the house of commons by Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, minister of agriculture, on February 28.

To old Ontario and western Quebec the government will pay 41% of the freight cost from Ft. William, an increase of 4%.

To eastern Quebec the rate will be 57%, an increase of 6%.

To the Atlantic provinces the rate will be 72%, an increase of 7%.

To British Columbia, from Calgary and Edmonton, the increase will be from 48% to 54%.

This freight assistance plan for feed grains from the prairie provinces was established in 1941 to maintain and encourage meat, poultry and dairy production in eastern Canada and British Columbia.

The total cost to the federal treasury to date is around \$260,000,000.

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Experiences with Koga II Wheat 1956

By LEONARD H. COOPER

SEEING a press dispatch that Canadian scientists deprecate British wheat gave me the urge to obtain some of Koga II wheat from England and grow it under Alberta conditions in Bowness, Alberta. Previously I had seen, in an English paper, that small loaves were baked from flour of this wheat and one loaf had been placed on each of the desks of members of the British House of Commons. The members thought that it compared very favourably with loaves made from flour of our Canadian hard wheat. Koga II is actually a German production, but evidently considerable work has been done on this variety in England.

Tests on baking strengths of Koga II were compared with our lowest type or No. 2 allowed for export which had a protein content of 12.5 per cent. The average content of protein in Canada's 1955 wheat crop was 13 per cent. The same No. 2 wheat had a loaf volume or measure of lightness of 740; Koga II had a volume of 530. Standard English wheat would have a loaf volume of about 490. I think this work was done in Canada.

Prior to the spring of 1956 I had no experience with the growing of wheat or any other farm grains. I had to rely on the advice of many farmer friends on even how to sow it, distance between seeds in the rows, distance between rows and depth of planting. All my research on soils

has been conducted on the production of horticultural crops—flowers and vegetables. I have exhibited Bowness-grown snapdragons in London, England, and I have grown onions when six of them weighed 17 pounds 14 ounces ripened. Just recently I have passed my six thousand analysis on various soils a few of which have been farm soils for my friends.



Leonard Cooper of Bowness, Alta., in his field of Koga wheat; August 13, 1956.

Growth of Koga Wheat

I had a plot of 142 square yards and using a hand seed sower, two pounds of the wheat were seeded and treated before sowing. This is equivalent to 68 pounds per acre. Germination was so good that practically every seed germinated. I was very careful to examine the seed for any weed seed and I found none. Seed was late sown, May 24th. On May 31st the noon temperature was 87 degrees and germination was rapid. By June 7th, height of wheat averaged 7 inches with third leaf developed. Lowest temperature during June was 29.5 degrees on June 7th, and the rainfall for June was 4.41 inches. By June 28th plants averaged 17½ inches.

Minimum temperature during July was 37 degrees on July 1st, and a maximum of 88 degrees on July 20th. At 11.45 p.m. temperature was 62 degrees with a relative humidity of 70. On July 25th we had an ice storm and torrential rain for five minutes with very high winds. No harm was done by ice, but there was a little lodging of the wheat. Plants were upright again by July 28th. Wheat headed by July 18th when average height was 34 inches. Moisture during July was 0.42 inches.

By August 2nd, average height of plants was 44 inches and by August 13th, 62 inches. On August 23rd hail struck at 9:30 p.m. Some ears were cut off and kernels stripped from ears, the plants stood up to the battering. August 24th saw some more very heavy rain which continued till 9:30 a.m. We had rain again on the 27th, 28th and 29th, and plants lodged a little over a very small area. Minimum temperature during August was on the last day when it was 34 degrees at 3 a.m. Total moisture during August was 5.66 inches.

September we had rain on the 1st and 2nd with a temperature of 31 degrees on the 2nd; September 3rd temperature at 4:30 a.m., 27 degrees;

September 4th, 6 a.m., 28 degrees; September 5th at 5:30 a.m., 25 degrees, and on the 6th at 5:30 a.m., 29 degrees. Total moisture during growing period, 10.95 inches.

The seven degrees of frost on September the 5th did a lot of damage to the wheat and it finished not better than No. 5. I feel sure that had I sown 12 days earlier and with normal early September weather, we do not expect a killing frost until about the 12th, a far better grade would have been obtained.

Kolga II is a red spring wheat and one ounce of the seed as received contained 608 kernels. Koga II, grown in Bowness, 697 per ounce; No. 3-Thatcher, 1956 crop, 725 to ounce; Thatcher from Carstairs area, frost-ed, 927 kernels to ounce and wheat bought for my poultry 867 per ounce. These figures will give some idea of the size of Koga II kernels compared with Thatcher. The weighings were done on a laboratory balance and correct down to one two-thousandth part of an ounce.

Has Heavy Straw

Knowing nothing about wheat varieties, I had to depend on my farmer friends for criticism of the variety. One said, on August 28th, he thought it looked wonderful, magnificent sight after hail. The best strawed wheat he had ever seen. After the hail storm of August 23rd I picked up one hailstone on the edge of the wheat which measured ½ inch by ¾ inch. This was at 11:30 that night.

All farmers remarked on the type of straw, how stiff it was. For two feet up it was solid. This might be a characteristic of the variety or my feeding might have had an influence.

Good ears contained 52-54 seed, and the top of the ear according to some farmers showed traces that a bearded variety was in its pedigree. The wheat did not shell easily, and the plants stood well.

On November an analysis of the Bowness Koga was done by a skilled cereal chemist. My lab. is not fitted up for such analyses. At time of analysis the moisture content of the wheat was 13 per cent, and the protein 11.6 per cent on 14 per cent moisture basis. The overall average for the Alberta crop was 12.2 per cent.

From the plot of 142 square yards we harvested 119 pounds of wheat, which works out to 4,056 pounds per acre. Having no bushel measure I was not able to obtain the weight per bushel. Using my bantams for testing, they would eat Koga I grew before poultry wheat I purchased. Possibly the color appealed to them.

Germination Tests

In doing a germination test of the wheat I grew 100 seeds were sown in soil in a box in the greenhouse. I held the temperature 7 days at 60 degrees, then 5 days at 65 degrees. After 12 days the average length of the plants was 4½ inches, the tap root 5 inches, with good fibrous roots. Two seedlings were deformed and 92 normal plants, therefore I had 92 per cent germination.

To carry my research further I planted 3 of the original seed in a ¾ size 7-inch pot, in a soil of which I knew the analysis—nitrates, phosphorus, potash, calcium and sulphates in parts per million and also the pH.

The three seeds germinated in 4 days and this was most interesting because it is so often stated that germination of grain is impeded by too high nitrates, to a lesser extent by potash and least of all by phosphorus. Unfortunately those who make such statements never say how much nitrate will harm germination. The soil in the pot and also in the

soil I used for germination test had more nitrates, phosphorus and potash than any wheat field in Alberta.

Forty-seven (47) stems were produced from the three seeds and they only grew to a height of 34 inches. The length of ears were four inches against 4½ field grown, but most interesting, all the stems were solid right to the ears and much harder straw than the field grown.

This brings me to the thought why worry about sawfly attacks if we can grow any wheat sawfly resistant by setting the ratio between nitrates, phosphorus and potash in the soil, and of course if it is commercially feasible.

One farmer who saw both the pot-grown wheat and field grown remarked that were it possible commercially to grow such wheat 34 inches high in our fields how much easier it would be to handle through the combine.

This spring I intend to continue my research with Koga II, Thatcher, Red Bobs, and Chinook if I can obtain one pound samples of certified seed of the last three varieties.

When on plant research I always think of the words of Sir Daniel Hall, K.C.B., F.R.S., LL.D., a leading agriculture research worker in England a few years ago, "It is a maxim of science that a thing is not true until it can be repeated at will." If we can change hollow-stemmed snapdragons and chrysanthemums into solid ones by maintaining a definite ratio between nitrates, phosphorus and potash, why not wheat?

HAIL SUPPRESSION

Many farmers in the hail susceptible districts of southern Alberta believe that the scheme of cloud seeding works and it will be tried on an enlarged scale this coming season. They base their faith on the Didsbury experience last season.

At a meeting held in Calgary at which the subject was discussed, N. H. Grace, director of the Research Council of Alberta, University of Alberta, said there is no scientific proof that hail suppression works effectively, but also there was no proof that it wouldn't work.

Glen Elder, manager of the Alberta Hail Board, said that hail conditions in the Didsbury area were no worse last year than in other years when there was no hail suppression efforts. But the Hail Board is not opposing the idea.

Under provincial law two-thirds of the voters in a municipal district must approve before a hail suppression scheme can be adopted on a country-wide basis.



This dog belongs to Douglas Petersen, of Sundre. Doug. says it looks like it was reading the comics. The dog whimpers when the youngsters do not say hello to it when they come home from school.

Australia's 1956 wheat crop is placed at 114,000,000 bushels as compared with 180,000,000 bushels in the previous year. However, the carry-over from the 1955 crop was 84,000,000 bushels.

At the Swift Current experimental farm seeding of Chinook wheat delayed to May 22 while weeds were being killed yielded 40 bushels of wheat as compared with 28 bushels from May 4th seedings. But the federal minister of agriculture says seeding should be done early to avoid damage from early frosts at harvest time.

Alfalfa seed growers would be interested in a published bulletin — "Alfalfa Seed Production in the

Prairie Provinces". Prepared by Doctor J. L. Bolton, Senior Agricultural Research Officer at the Forage Crops Laboratory, Saskatoon, and released by the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It provides a wealth of information on the requirements of this important crop.

Hon. I. C. Nolle, Saskatchewan minister of agriculture, points out that loans to help construction of seed cleaning plants are now available in that province, from the Industrial Development Fund. Whether an individual, co-operative or municipal seed cleaning plant is being organized, loans can be secured, provided that information indicates the plant will operate on a sound economic basis, be of acceptable construction and have adequate equipment.

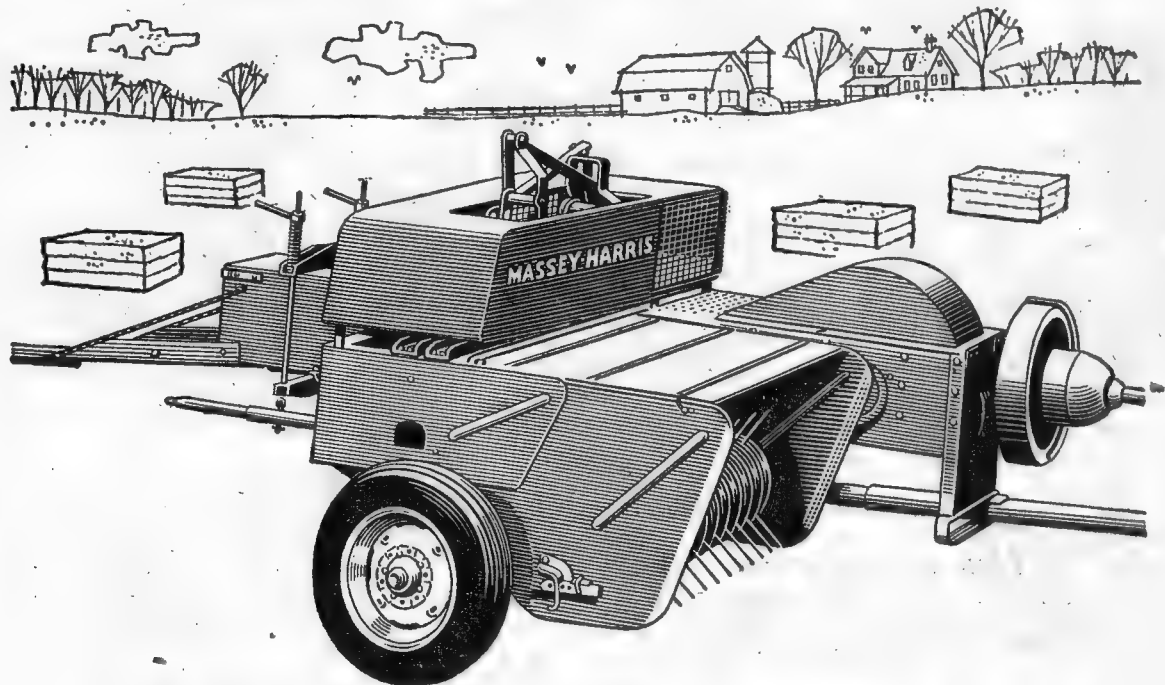
Farmers will do well by following the advice of provincial governments as to the varieties of grain best suited to their districts. Each provincial government in the prairie provinces has printed recommendations available, free of charge.

Total loss to Canadian farmers through seed diseases runs into many millions of dollars a year. Proper seed treatment will minimize such loss.

Grasses respond mainly to nitrogen. For hay and pasture, grasses should receive ammonium nitrate at 75 to 150 pounds per acre or ammonium sulphate at 150 to 240 pounds per acre. Early spring is the best time for application.

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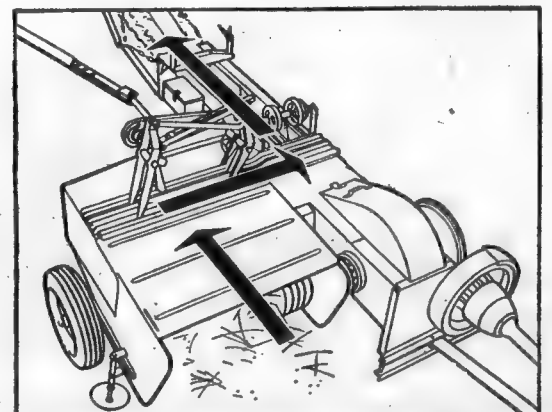
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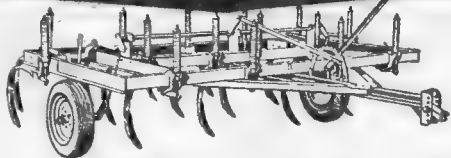
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Canadian consumption of honey averages about 35,000,000 pounds a year. Domestic production is around 25,000,000 pounds.

The latest figure on Canada's population is 16,344,000. The increase in 1956 was 526,000.

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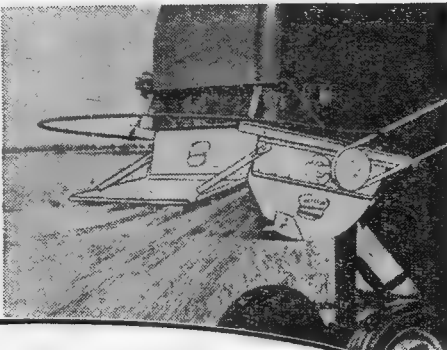
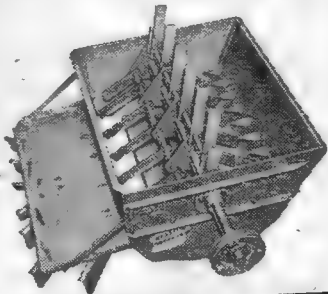
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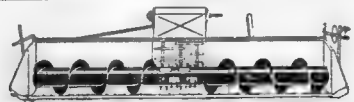
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Selling Grain at the Stock Yards

The Logical Place to Feed Western Grain to Western Cattle is on the Farms of the West.

By GRANT MacEWAN

EVERY pig going to market at approved weight takes the rough equivalent of 20 bushels of barley with him and the average fattened steer going from feedlot to stock yard or packing plant takes at least 30-bushels. Every can of winter milk sold from the farm, every crate of eggs and every fattened lamb take a quantity of hard-to-sell grain with them. In the last two or three years, these animal products, meeting with ready sale, have reached new peaks of importance as bonds of security and sources of revenue in the Canadian farm economy. If it were not for the record sales of meats and dairy and poultry products, the surplus of grains would be bigger and more troublesome by far.

Two billion pounds of meat was the output from Canadian farms and ranches in 1956, a volume of production equalled only once before — in 1944 when pig production was geared to a wartime export trade. In 1956, over half of total meat sales was beef and veal and most striking fact of all — nearly all was consumed in Canada.

It may be presumed that in the production of two billion pounds of meat, something in the realm of 250 million bushels of grain were fed and marketed, to say nothing of other millions fed to dairy cattle and poultry. Such big markets for grains must hold special attraction when unsold surpluses exist on thousands of farms.

In the conversion of grain to beef, 1957 may prove to be a record year for Canada as a whole as well as for the West. The movement of stocker and feeder cattle from public stockyards in 1956 was over 340,000 head, compared with 250,000 in 1955. And many more farm-raised cattle went on fattening rations without passing through a public market. Hence, the late winter of 1956-57 finds feed-lots well filled. Alberta alone, according to the provincial livestock commissioner, had 175,000 cattle on fattening rations.

At the same time, about half the number of stockers and feeders shipped from stockyards in 1956 were western bred animals going to Eastern Canada for finishing — going to an area that must import most of its feed grains from the same part of the nation in which the unfinished cattle were obtained.

With steadily increasing population, all of Canada's livestock resources will be required to meet domestic needs and thus the country may cease completely to be a factor in export of livestock and livestock products. It poses a question about where in Canada the needed expansions will take place. Where should western feeder cattle be fattened? At the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference in 1955, an eastern spokesman urged that western farmers "stick with grain" and leave it to the East to provide most of the livestock and livestock products, pointing out that 70 cents out of every dollar earned by Ontario farmers comes from livestock and related products. Such advice made strange contrast with the oft-heard criticism emanating from the East in other years, that western farming methods conducted with a minimum of livestock were inefficient and deplorable.

No longer is the West's capacity for expanded livestock production in doubt and some easterners are evi-

dently worried about the competition promised by recent trends. Eastern Canada with its big consuming population will continue to dominate in dairying, but Western Canada can produce beef and lamb and pork more cheaply and probably will produce them in much greater volumes.

Freight Assistance Subsidies

Already, livestock production in Eastern Canada and British Columbia is being subsidized with the taxpayers' money, through the Federal Assistance on feed grains shipped from the mid-western provinces. It has amounted to something like 17 million dollars a year, with feeders in Québec and Ontario, between them, qualifying for just over 70 per cent of the total assistance and British Columbia feeders for about 10 per cent. Speaking in the House of Commons recently, the Minister of Finance, Hon. W. E. Harris, stated that total payments for freight assistance over the years when the subsidy has been in effect is "some 254 million dollars".

That freight assistance, though never made a permanent policy of government, has been the subject of endless controversy, with many western people seeing it as a "hand-out" to eastern and B.C. feeders—one that should be abolished. But there are two sides to most issues and the policy's supporters have pointed to what they consider advantages to farmers in both eastern and western sections of Canada—aid to producers in areas of high feed prices and better assurance of markets for the surplus feed grains grown in the West.

On the latter point, it may be recalled, an extensive program of experimental work at Macdonald College in the Province of Québec, served to prove that western barley would serve eastern stockmen as well as imported American corn. It wasn't easy to convince all the users but gradually the fact was accepted and more and more of western coarse grains and low-grade wheat moved to the East.

Eastern farmers have come to regard federal assistance in paying freight as a necessity, "one of the most important things done for agriculture in Eastern Canada in the last 20 years," according to a recent statement in the House of Commons. Nor could anybody argue with the eastern feeder's point that 70 per cent of Canada's consumers are in the East and much of western beef and other meats must be sent to Toronto or Montreal ultimately in any case.

The Saskatchewan grower with barley to sell wasn't the one to criticize the policy of freight assistance. The western cattleman, with an inherent aversion to subsidize, however, could argue that the logical place to feed western grain to western cattle is on the farms of the West.

The Question of Economics

A question of economics in its simplest form: "Should an Alberta farmer with a 700-pound yearling steer and a ton of barley combine these to give him a thousand-pound steer good enough to grade Choice on the Toronto market, or would it be as well to ship both the feeder steer and the barley to Toronto and let an eastern feeder who places a higher premium on the steer's manure for fertilizer do the feeding and hope for a profit?"

First of all, the freight costs on a 700-pound feeder steer and the ton of barley, at carload rates in each case,

would be much higher than the freight on a thousand-pound finished steer, thus affording the Ontario cattleman a much narrower margin than the western operator could enjoy. The regular freight rate on a carload of barley going to Toronto from Calgary is 87 cents a hundred — almost a cent a pound — and even with federal assistance, it has resulted in Ontario and Quebec and Maritime cattlemen paying a good 50 per cent more for grain than most mid-western stockmen have been paying for it this season.

If the 700-pound feeder steer were part of a 20,000-pound carload going from Calgary to Toronto market at the rate of \$2.25 per hundred pounds for freight, its share on account of transportation would be about \$18. The same steer carried to a fattened thousand pounds and shipped at the same rate per hundred, would carry a Calgary-Toronto freight charge of about \$25.50. By no other possible means could a ton of barley or its equivalent be carried from Alberta to Eastern Canada — freight assistance or not freight assistance — for \$7.50.

The western cattlemen may continue to reject the principle of subsidy and bonus and protection but, in spite of federal assistance as at present, western feeders close to sources of both cattle and feed, have and will have a net advantage. Some day, also, the practice of shipping grain to be fed elsewhere will be seen as more extravagant of soil fertility than that of feeding it near home where the manure can be returned to the fields.

Potentialities for Expansion

Certainly, the manner in which eastern farmers have milked cows, raised pigs and fed cattle — often with small return for hours of labor — is to be admired and nobody would deny them any reasonable reward in the conduct of their intensified operations. In fluid milk production, they are quite secure. But in meat production, there are various reasons why mid-western farmers should and will expand with livestock.

The production of meat animals in prairie agriculture has fluctuated widely through the years. At one time, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta farmers are breeding and marketing pigs in a grand way and, in the next year, interest is down and so are deliveries. At least that's as it has been but the area has demonstrated its elasticity in animal output and, today, no section of the North American continent possesses greater expansion potential.

The suggestion that these three provinces can and should carry most of the livestock increases in the years ahead is not made with any thought of more than gradual and cautious growth, in keeping with markets and feed supplies. Production and consumption of animal products have been in a fortunate state of balance for some time and thoughtless increases in output could very easily create surplus in new forms, with added marketing problems. The Americans will again want our cattle at prices to make export attractive.

That we will have cattle to spare for export is another matter. But regardless of export market, Canadian consumers are becoming more numerous and the section of the country best able and most likely to accommodate growing needs in meat animals is that part where feeds are most abundant. It will be, thus whether the freight assistance on feeds to other parts becomes or does not become a permanent part of government fiscal policy.

Geese Kill Quack Grass

By MRS. FRED CROOK

I LIKE to look at this picture of our African geese, they are so pretty and so nice and tame, but, that's not all, I call them a double-purpose bird, for my geese did a lot more for me than just grow up and be sold.

For looking at this picture I remember what a lot they have done for me. Two years ago I penned off part of the vegetable garden for a run for the little goslings. It was just one mass of quack grass that had been a heart-breaking job to me trying to keep ahead of. Oh! how those young goslings did tuck into it till there wasn't a green blade left!

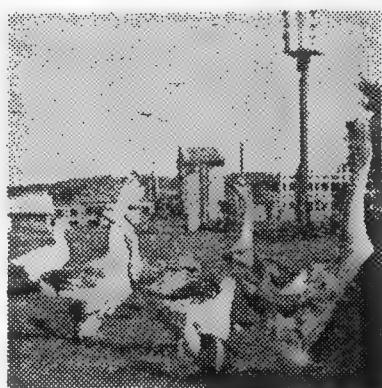
I wondered if it was really killed off or would it start up again in the spring. Last spring and summer told the story for not one blade of quack grass showed up all summer.

I then fenced off half the garden for the next crop of goslings (they don't need a high fence so it's easy to do). Well, it worked fine, they started on the quack grass until all the green shoots were gone. Besides eating it off, they dug down with their beaks and pulled up the roots and ate them, too!

I like both ducks and geese. They are so easy to teach to go to a different place, just once or twice driving them in is all they need. From then on they go without any trouble, which is more than I can say for hens. Hens always seem to have a notion to go in the opposite direction with so much flying and squawking.

Our old gander scared quite a few people the way he'd run at them with his neck stuck out, but, really he wasn't a bit mean; it was just bluff. When he'd get close he'd wave his head from side to side and do a lot of talking but that was all.

If you have a few geese and a lot of quack grass I suggest you try my plan, it will save you so much back-breaking work, digging the horrid stuff out. But you want to be sure there isn't anything else they can eat for it's surprising where they can get these sharp beaks when the green stuff runs short.

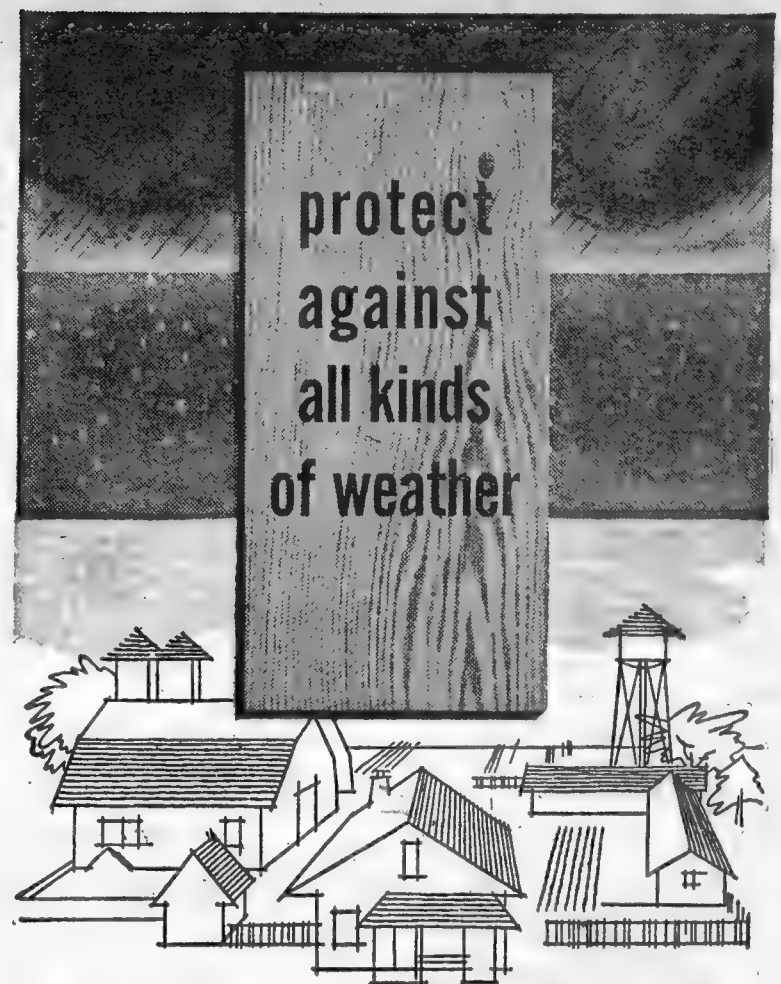


African Geese.

I remember I had a wild cucumber vine over the trellis that had grown so nice and big, ready to flower. One morning I went out and was surely surprised to find it all wilted. Upon investigation I found the main stem nipped off. The geese had reached through the wire for the green, juicy stem.

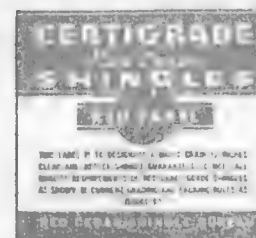
Oh, well, I thought one cucumber vine was little enough to pay for all the quack grass they had cleaned out for me, so I just pulled it down and let them finish it up.

Newsprint exports at a value of \$708,383,000, lead all exports from Canada in value in 1956. Wheat exports came second with a value of \$512,498,000.



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Building and Fencing in the Pioneer Era

By C. H. STOUT

THEY didn't phone over to the lumber yard when they wanted a few boards in the old days. In fact getting a little lumber was a real problem for homesteaders in the nineties, even though they had the money to pay for it, which wasn't often. The price wasn't exorbitant either, the main drawback being the lack of lumber except to settlers within easy hauling distance of Jock Walter's little sawmill at Edmonton.

Consequently most farmers got along with very little lumber, making hewed timber serve as much as possible. But, of course, everyone had to have some boards for floors, doors, shelving, tables and for sleigh boxes and hay racks. Under pressure of necessity the pioneers sometimes rip-

ped boards out of clear timber with well-worn handsaws, a task demanding not only toughness and determination, but patience and perseverance without limit. Little wonder the broadaxe rather than the handsaw first fashioned the amenities of frontier homes.

The coming of central European settlers in the timberlands really brought into more general use the old-time whip saw as a method of obtaining rough lumber. And we do mean rough for the whip saw wasn't particular where it cut or how, and there were no local planing mills in those days to smooth the boards. However, when floors were laid, given a back-breaking first-aid treatment from a hand plane, and later subjected to two or three community

dances the whip saw marks were considerably worn down. Instances could be given where these whip-sawn spruce boards made a floor that was still in fairly good condition after half a century, though the walls and roof of the log cabin might be tumbling down.

To those unfamiliar with the modus operandi of a whip saw, lucky people, we give you an outline of the operation. The saw itself was a hefty affair between seven and ten feet in length, with handles resembling those on a lawn mower at each end, and, as little Red Riding Hood would have said, "what big teeth it had". The log to be sawn, usually spruce, about a foot in diameter, was hewed flat on two sides then lifted on to a couple of high trestles and securely pegged down. On the top flat surface a chalk line snapped charcoal lines one

or two inches apart according to the width of lumber desired, one man remained on top of the log and with might and main pulled the heavy saw up, and another man on the ground with a heave and a tug pulled it down again. And so it went, hour by hour, the saw ripping out possibly half a dozen logs in the course of a long, hard day. Sounds simple, but brother, that was no place for a weak back, nor for weak eyes either, for with an adverse wind the man on the ground was literally smothered in sawdust. What price whip-sawing? Sometimes, if the lumber had a ready sale, each sawyer might make as much as a dollar a day, but, of course, he was required to "feed himself".

Old-Time Fences

The tattered lexicon of frontier settlers in the bush country had such an accumulation of fence names that only a few of the older folks were familiar with them all. Barbed wire came early 'tis true, but long before this barbarous enemy of human and horse flesh followed the clearing of croplands, native timber was used exclusively to protect the little fields and enclose pastures. First of all in heavily timbered places settlers simply slashed down trees and made what they called "brush fences". However, these were prone to fire and once the branches and brush became dry and brittle cattle soon found plenty of holes to admit them to wheat and oat fields in the night. Most prevalent later on was the ordinary "worm" fence built of small rails laid zig-zag for stability, about four feet high.

To give greater protection willow stakes were often driven into the ground and crossed at the corners of the rails and into this fork placed a heavier rail as a rider, for cattle and horses speedily found out that an ordinary worm fence could be pushed over. Another ruse of the farmer to reduce the labor of rail cutting was to drive willow stakes in pairs with a short post between them at the bottom and on this build up the rails in a straight line with the stakes bound together at the top with pliable and small willow throngs. But the one simple fence that defied the slyest and most obnoxious steer or cayuse was the "grasshopper". This consisted of rails with one end laid on the ground and the other end elevated to an angle of about 30 degrees where it was held by willow stakes crossed on the rail below. Each rail extended about five feet beyond the stakes and this weird effect discouraged animals from trying to jump over or crawl through. Then, of course, there was the cumbersome but substantial log-fence, a slow and laborious thing to construct. Logs of good size about fifteen feet in length were built up like a log house with the ends held together side by side with short blocks notched in the logs. However, there were steers and horses which could hop over this fortress-like obstacle even when five feet high, and then Mr. Farmer had to "stake the rider" as in the case of the rail fences.

Dangerous Barb Wire

For a really tight fence some settlers set heavy posts ten feet apart nailed a pole between and then placed small poplars on end and side by side with the lower end held by a trench in the ground and the top bound at the last by another rail spiked to the posts. In all these and many other similar contrivances the native wood not only was a fire hazard, but soon decayed and the hard work of years rendered useless. Little wonder farmers turned to barbed-wire fences when they could afford them. But when milk cows were mutilated and

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prized horses slashed by these fences, folks sometimes sighed for the "worm" and "grasshopper" fences that went the way of the forests.

Today the horses have almost disappeared, the cows seem to have grown wary of fence barbs, but we still have with us that associate atrocity of barbed-wire fences the barbed-wire gate. This contraption is only a trifle more convenient than the old-fashioned "bars", which were three or four poles slid into ladder like spaces between two posts and which had to be let down at one end and carried around out of the way when a vehicle passed through the opening. Then the bars had to be carried back again and slid one by one into place. True the barbed-wire gate doesn't flourish in thousands as it did once upon a time but it still mars the course of human relations on a considerable scale. It still is held in place by malevolent wire hoops that defy efforts of even professional wrestlers to pry loose from the posts, and to replace after a vehicle is driven through. A gate we like to remember was pictured on the front cover of the Farm and Ranch Review for February. Early in the century we had four, or was it five, such gates on a quarter-section farm, and construction wasn't difficult. Two sturdy posts set ten or twelve feet apart with a heavy pole across the top high enough to give machinery clearance, and with a large hole cut in the "back" end to hold the whittled down top end of the swing post. This post rested at the bottom on a block and into it were bored five or six holes to hold an equal number of light but strong poles which formed the gate. They were held at the front end by a shorter head-post which was fastened to the gate post by wooden pins or, if required, a lock chain. Such a gate had no hinges and no irons, but it swung so easily a boy on horseback could open and shut it without trouble. Today we would like to point out, it could be opened without any valid objections by friend wife while you remained in the car to drive through.



C. E. (Ted) Hughes

The Alberta Seed Growers Co-operative Ltd. announce the appointment of C. E. (Ted) Hughes as General Manager. Mr. Hughes, who has been Assistant Manager for the past 3 years, succeeds A. M. Smith, Alberta Seed Co-op Manager since 1945.

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Man in Crowd — "That ain't Burns... that's Shakespeare."

Auctioneer — "Well, folks, the joke's on me. That shows what I know about the Bible."

F. U. A. Services

THE Farmers' Union of Alberta, 9934 - 106 St., Edmonton, has set up a farm accounting service which can provide authoritative advice to farmer members in making up income tax statements and setting up farm accounting systems.

Many farmers have been in real trouble with income tax forms and some have had to pay high prices for services from people who were not too competent. The F.U.A. will provide friendly and efficient service at a very reasonable cost.

Such services include preparation of tax returns, preparation of net worth statement if requested, information on succession duties, etc., estate planning, bookkeeping systems.

What's Ahead For Agriculture

Dean A. G. McCalla, of the faculty of agriculture, University of Alberta, says farmers in this country are confronted with two sets of problems. The first is freight rates, cost of equipment, and cost of interest and labor, and they are powerless to do anything about these. The second is that of efficient production which can be achieved by the use of modern methods, good management, careful accounting procedure and the practice of soil conservation.

Dean McCalla also stated in an address delivered to the Calgary short course on agriculture that while agriculture is in an inferior position in the national economy, it is not as bad off as some leaders of farm organization make out. He predicted that the industry will move gradually towards larger farms and fewer farmers and the general public must recognize that a healthy, prosperous agriculture is necessary for the maintenance of a healthy, prosperous society.

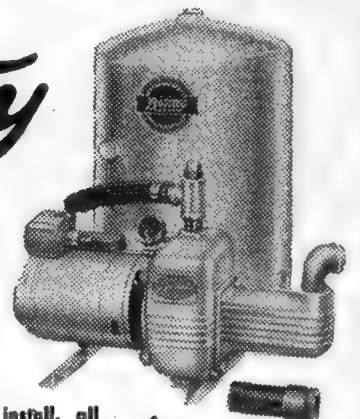
Farming is not necessarily a "way of life", the dean said, but a commercial enterprise and the producer who is not using the most economical methods of producing is not entitled to what he claims is a fair share of the national income.

Mechanization has expanded, in grain production and will be extended to livestock production, the speaker said, and that will mean the small units producing livestock will be crowded out. In the past six years the annual average production of wheat in the west has been 150,000,000 bushels above the previous years, and this has been the main cause of the accumulated surplus. As far ahead as a quarter of a century Canada will still have to export half its wheat production.

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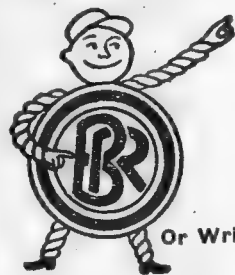
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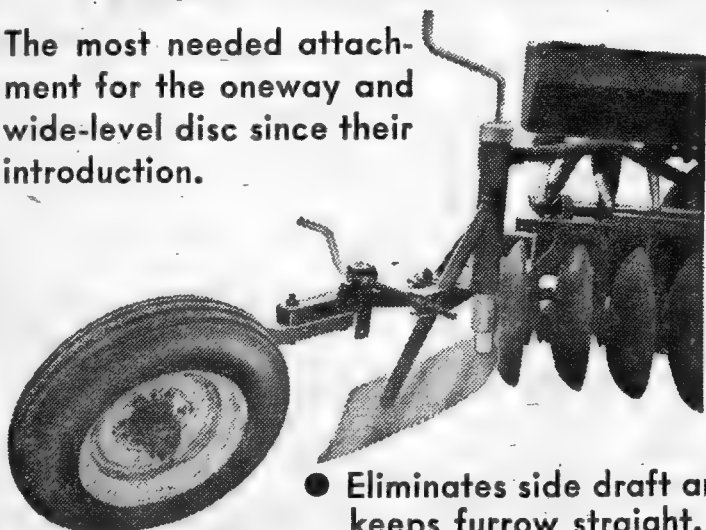
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An Ukrainian Easter In Pioneer Times

By WILLIAM GRASIUK

THERE is much excitement in the Ukrainian settlement north of Vegreville, for the little parish had recently received the church bells. They were new and had arrived from Europe. On a recent Sunday they were blessed by the Rev. N. Chernowsky, who made a special trip from the small monastery near Mundare. They are to be rung by young and old at Eastertime, just the same as was done during past Easters in their native land.

Everybody awaits eagerly for the Pascal night, when the Pascal bread is blessed in the churchyard. In the house of John Pawlick, the president of the parish board, there was intense activity. Mrs. Maria Pawlick was baking the Easter loaf, which smelled of saffron, spices, currants and the dozen eggs which she had put into it. Grandpa Pawlick sat at the table making Easter eggs. He had before him pots of dyes, including a beautiful russet dye made from the skins of onions. There were also pens, a candle and a pan of melted beeswax.

"How do you make such beautiful designs, Grandpa?" asked Susie his thirteen-year-old granddaughter.

"Watch me as I work," he replied. "See this egg, it is white and very clean. Now heat it by the candle like this: take the pen and write the design on it. Next cover it with beeswax. Now try it, Susie. But be sure to put into your design a wish. It may be of love, luck, health or happiness."

"Why do we have eggs at Easter?" inquired Susie.

"An egg — that is new life. When spring comes everything awakes. It was the Virgin Mother you know who painted beautiful eggs for Pilate to redeem her son. The three Mary's, when they went to visit Christ's grave, brought eggs for the guards, to gain entry."

"Why do people exchange Easter eggs nowadays?" Susie asked.

Grandpa gave Susie a wink and said, "A young girl wishes to snare a husband gives a boy an egg. If he likes her, he will give her one in return. Otherwise he must return it, for the egg might be bewitched." So the work and the talk went on.

The next night was Pascal Night. The whole settlement went to church. The evening was beautiful, radiant. Stars lit up the great dome of the Alberta night.

Worshippers gathered around the bonfire. There was no dearth of fuel so the fire was a huge one. Boys were sent to the nearby wood to bring in a fresh supply of sticks. Old Joe Gudzen, who worked for several seasons as a laborer in Germany, twisted his coal-black handle-bar moustache and loudly cleared his throat. A story was in the offing. How he loved himself when he drew a crowd. And he did just that right now. "It was just prior to Easter," he began, "when I was working near the Black Forest in Germany. One day I was sent on an errand that took me through the forest. I lost my way and decided to spend the night in the lonely wood. But I wasn't lonely for long. I heard a rustle and saw many moss-folk. They were of the stature of three-year-old children, but were gray and very old looking. I gave each of them a lump of sugar and they never forgot it. They would troop to my native village in Galicia and help my wife and me with the hay-making, churning and cooking. They would hide in the stump and be safe during the daytime for I made three crosses on it." Old Joe was interrupted by

the lusty, vigorous singing of the Easter Hymn, "Christ has Arisen, Arisen from the Dead." It was time for the service to begin.

The people began to reverently enter the church. A beautiful panorama met their eyes. There were numerous tapers at the altar and in the Chandelier. The altar was naively and joyously decorated with home-made flowers, embroidered linen towels and ikons. A representation of the tomb had been built with three Easter loaves upon it, each embellished with a paper rose.

The story of the crucifixion was related by the choir singers in the loft, while the audience with bowed heads joined in the harmony. The priest robed in gold and blue vestments chanted the service in the old Slavic tongue. A gladness and excitement seemed to sweep the throng. At times the worshippers prostrated themselves, touching their foreheads to the cold, hard floor, rejoicing or weeping. Soon the service was ended. The candles in the church blazed up and the congregation swept outside. Christ Arose! Christ Arose! they shouted as they swarmed out of the church bearing crosses and banners, and led by the priests, his acolytes and the choir. They circled the church three times for Christ was now among them in spirit. They hoped to get a view of him in the flesh.

The women arranged the Easter baskets in a semi-circle. They uncovered them and revealed the Pascal bread, eggs, cheese, horseradish, bacon, ham, sausage, butter. The priest came along sprinkling each basket with holy water and blessing it. He was given two eggs from each one.

It is dawn and time to go home. Oxen and horses are hitched to wagons and a deep rumble of wheels is heard as they all depart.

When the Pawlicks reach home they sit around the table for the Easter breakfast — eggs, homemade sausage, cheese, ham, bread, cider and cakes. The children are sent to wash in a basin of cold water into which coins and an Easter egg had been placed for luck. When they return the meal begins with a small slice of egg, then a piece of the consecrated bread.

Then all is quiet. The family is in bed.

Hours later they are awakened by the ringing of the church bells. They call the young to the Easter games, for the afternoon is their own. Susie walks the one mile to church. When she arrives at the churchyard, the young people are streaming in; the girls with flowers in their hair, the boys with wide embroidered belts. They mill around talking, laughing and exchanging Easter eggs. They also ring the church bells just as their parents did in the old country.

John Caryk pulls out his mouth organ and begins to play a lively tune. The Easter game stops. A dance on the green begins. The skirts of the girls fly as they are swung round and round. It has been nine long weeks since anyone has danced, for the lenten season and its prohibition against dancing had been strictly observed.

It is getting cooler. The sun is low in the west, but chores are to be done and the parents are the bosses. Slowly, reluctantly, the revellers wend their way homeward. Their voices blend in song. Here and there we see the young walking in pairs. It is Spring. It is Easter. Christ has Arisen. Everybody is happy. Love is everywhere.



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The Life Story of a Pet Beaver

By KERRY WOOD

THIS is all about a pet who refuses to die. Ten years ago the tame beaver that became the household pet of the Forbes family of Red Deer was written up in an article published in a Canadian school reader; this started a modest avalanche of letters from all over Canada, the writers asking for more details about Mickey the beaver. Mickey died nine years ago, but Grade Four students refuse to let the little animal rest in peace. Every few days a scrawly, big-handed letter comes from some interested pupil, directed to either the Forbes family or myself as the article writer, the young scribes asking many pertinent questions about Mickey and invariably ending with a request for a picture of him. Unhappily, the pic-

ture supply has been long since exhausted.

In June of 1940, a high school girl found a badly mauled beaver kitten on a sidewalk in the residential section of Red Deer near Waskasoo Creek. The fuzzy little animal had



Doris Forbes, of Red Deer, and her pet beaver, "Mickey".

been attacked by either dogs or cats and left to die. Its hind quarters were paralyzed, it was bleeding from many gashes and bites, and seemed close to collapse. The girl was on her way to school to write examinations, so had very little time. She carried the animal to the nearest house, the Forbes home. Mrs. Forbes had been a nurse and willingly took on the task of looking after the injured beaver kitten. When her daughter Doris returned from school at noon, Doris gave the beaver the name of Mickey and promptly adopted the animal as her special pet.

Procession of Visitors

The young beaver made a complete recovery under the kind care of the Forbes family, then started a strange new life for its human benefactors. Before the advent of Mickey, Wally and Mary Forbes and daughter Doris had led a scheduled family life. Now everyone in town began visiting them at frequent intervals to have a look at the charming little animal. Holidays and Sundays were particularly busy, with farm folk and people from other towns and cities coming for a look at Mickey. The Forbes home became an open house at all times of the day and night. Strangers even knocked on the door at midnight, wanting a look at Mickey. More than 10,000 visitors paid their respects to the animal, including such notables as Lady Baden-Powell, chief Guide of the world, Lord Rowallen, a family of Swiss tourists who came right across Canada to visit Mickey, and the Chapmans of Hollywood who brought a professional movie camera to record his antics for the newsreels.

Throughout these visitations Mickey behaved beautifully. He was much more tame than a pet dog and never bit anyone with his formidable teeth. His quarters were in an old garage behind the Forbes home, where he slept during the day. Towards evening Mickey woke up and "mewed" at the door for Doris to come and get him. Then he followed her around played with her in a tiny wading pool Mr. Forbes constructed, helped her gather clover leaves, green peas, and other food he liked, and roamed all over the house during the supper hour. He had to be trained

not to chew on table and chair legs, but soon became an ideal house pet. He stayed with the family until their bedtime, when he was carried back to the garage and spent the night hours piling up poplar logs in the form of a stick lodge, or arranging them in barrier form across the garage floor in the semblance of a dam. At dawn, he carried a favorite gunny sack into a dog kennel where he slept away the daylight hours. Often that sleep had to be interrupted, when visitors came for a look at Mickey.

Mickey's Career

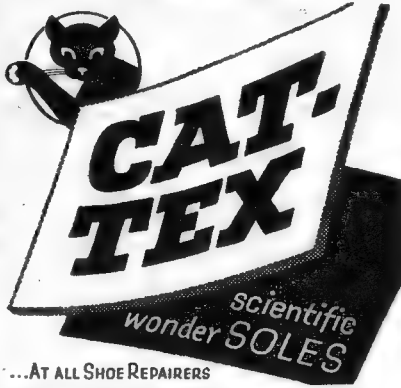
He was featured in a booth at the Red Deer Agricultural Fair on two successive years and people were charged 10c admission for a look at the beaver. Thus Mickey earned hundreds of dollars which were spent to provide luxuries and goodies for Central Alberta soldiers and airmen serving overseas during the war. He was carried to school by Doris and became a real live nature lesson for the rest of the pupils. He went with the family to the summer resort called Sylvan Lake and enjoyed swimming there with Doris; after a watery excursion, Mickey was very fond of an ice cream cone!

Of course, he had his bad times. For example, when Doris caught whooping cough, Mickey climbed the stairs to her bedroom to visit her and promptly came down with a really beaver-shaking case of the whoops! Another time, on a forty below zero morning, his rubbery tail was badly frozen; Mickey spent the whole day massaging it gently with his hand-like front paws and thus self-nursed his tail back to normal with no bad after-effects. He was absolutely disconsolate whenever Doris was away from home on holidays; at such times he would utter a pathetic mewing note and go wandering all over the house searching for his beloved mistress. Mr. Forbes relates how Mickey refused to sleep or eat during one of these rare intervals when Doris was away from home, until finally Mickey found an old sweater Doris had worn and gratefully hugged this close, savouring the smell-contact with his absent Doris and cuddling the garment while he lapsed into an exhausted sleep.

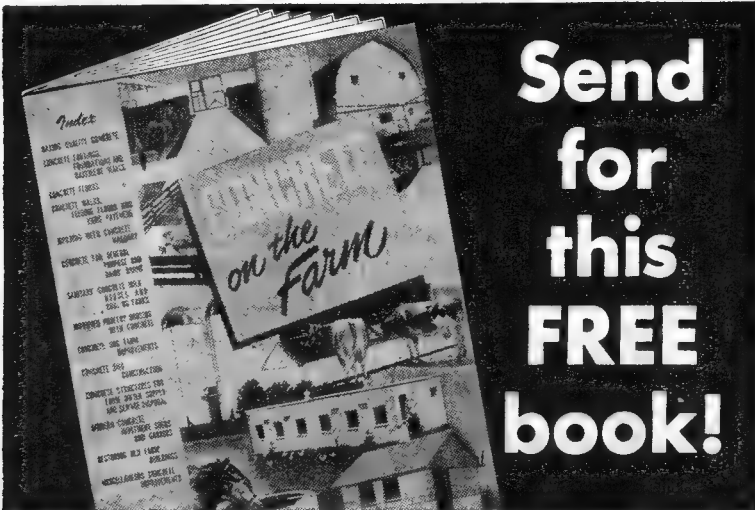
All this time he very nicely enjoyed the crowds of visitors, soldiers and airmen stationed near Red Deer, the continual flash bulbs of cameras and the clicking of movie machines, posing with this child or that man, and he was always willing to sample any new titbit. His favorite fare was bread and milk, oranges, apples, cake, and toffee, plus a variety of greenery including clover and dandelion and grass leaves, poplar bark, and garden vegetables headed by peas, lettuce, and carrots. He loved sour pickles, too!

This wonderful little animal died in 1948, a grizzled old beaver at the time of his death. He had spent his last night in the garage carefully building another dam across the floor, and at dawn had carried his gunny sack into the kennel to settle down. Mickey died peacefully during his sleep, and there were some sad folk in the Forbes home that day.

Nine years have passed since Mickey's death, but memories of that fine beaver are very much alive today. Doris and her father and mother have many good keepsakes of their years of association with their unique pet. They have letters from Mickey's friends from many parts of the world. They've even got a special government letter, complete with official seal, granting them full ownership of Mickey the Beaver — who was one of Canada's National Animals.



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Brandon Swine Show

THE All-Canada Swine Show in Brandon the first week of July may well be the most ambitious one of its kind ever attempted in this country. Some 15 carloads or more of purebred swine of bacon type will be exhibited at this first all-Canada show, and should result in the keenest competition. A heavy entry is already promised both from the East and West, and with the only classification (bacon-type hogs, registered) a battle-royal is forecast for the \$7,325 in cash prizes along with

\$2,000 in merchandise for special awards. This is more than double the prizes at stake on swine at Toronto's Royal Winter Fair.

The swine will be accommodated in Brandon's brand new swine barn, already described as possibly the best in the country, and covering an area of some 280 by 140 feet.

Judge of the big show will be J. G. Stothart, Superintendent Lacombe Experimental Station, and for nine years judge of the Advanced Registry Swine Show in Saskatoon, as well as judge in many other swine shows

across the prairies. On display at the Brandon show this July — and in the first public showing — will be the new Lacombe breed of swine.

Deliveries of hogs in Ontario to Central markets instead of direct to packing houses increased to 20% through a campaign undertaken by the Ontario Hog Producers' Association, according to the president, Charles McInnes. Previously only 5% went to such markets. Mr. McInnes said that truck drivers had been paid as high as \$2.50 per hog to deliver animals direct to packing houses.

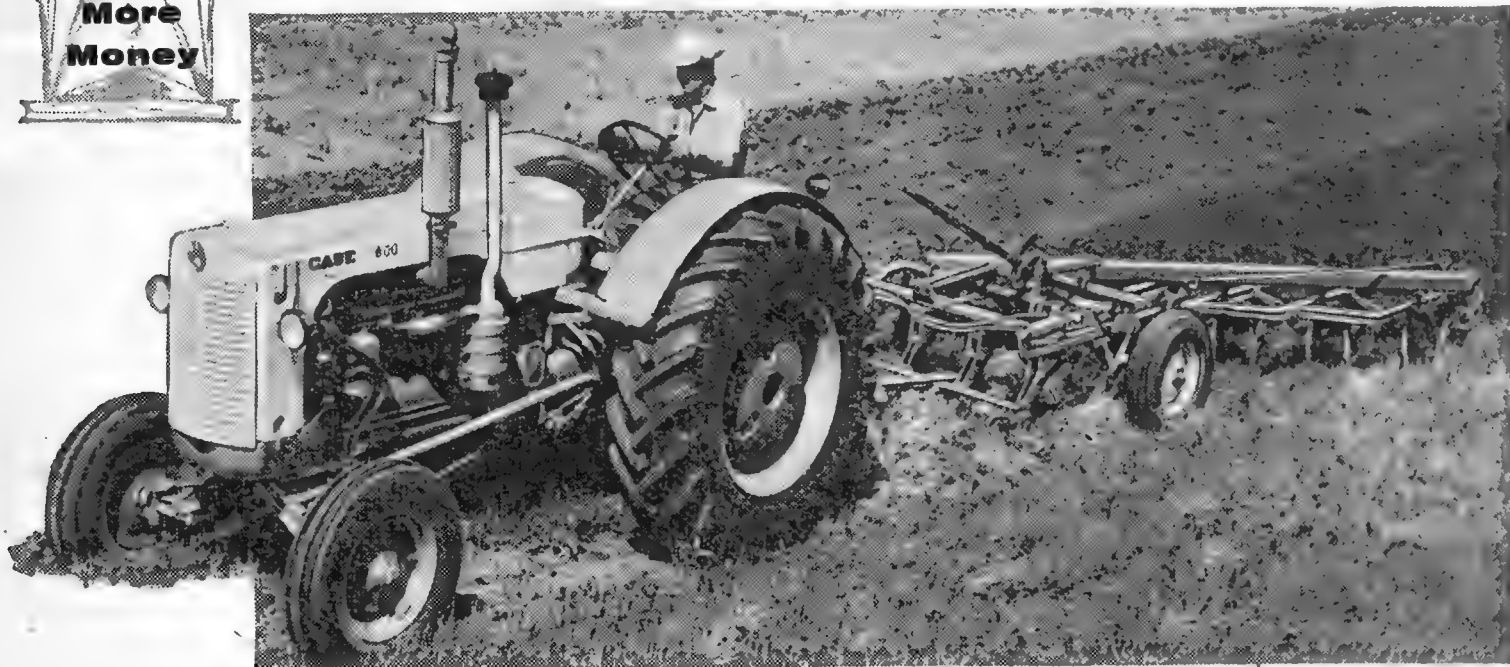
It takes less feed to produce a meat-type hog than to produce a lardier hog of the same weight. That's indicated by records from the Iowa testing station at Ames.

The production of chicks in Canada in 1956 reached an all-time record number, when for the first time more than one hundred million chicks were produced within a calendar year. The total was 103.4 million, an increase of 25.8 per cent over 1955 and 30.3 per cent over 1954. Of the total, 34.3 million were for the broiler trade.



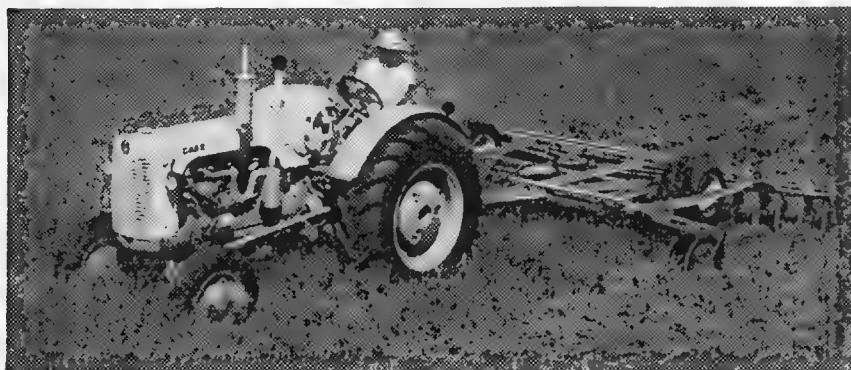
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Big new Case A plow has super strength for tough soils, big 24x26 throat for burying heavy trash

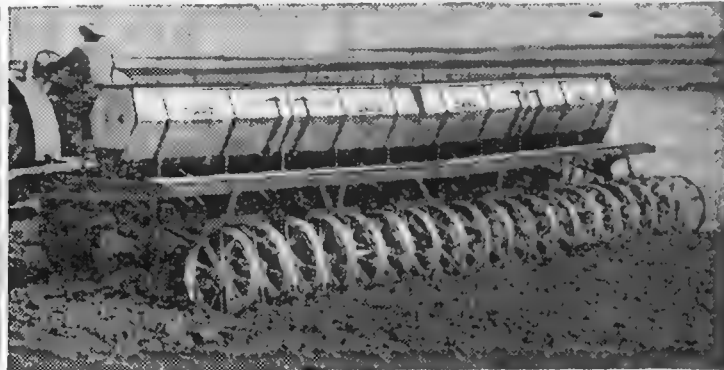


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New 16-foot 5 Series wheel disk harrow does a once-over job where others must work twice. Big blades chop heavy trash into top soil. Rubber-tired transport wheels also gauge depth. Seven to 16-foot sizes. Shown with Case 600 LPG tractor.



Big new heavy-duty 14-foot L Series lister press drill has wide trash clearance, covers big acreages fast. Big 2-bushel-per-foot hopper has sloping ends for multiple hitches. Choose from full line of Case Seedmeter drills.

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UNKNOWN PHENOMENA Two calves frisked up to a cow grazing in a field. Says one: "Mom, can Freddie stay for lunch?"

Dust was beginning to blow across the hot, dry Texas plain as the tourist pulled into the gas station.

"Think we'll get some rain?" said the tourist to the attendant.

"Shore hope so," replied the attendant, "not so much for myself but for the kids. I've seen rain."

Modern mother to visitor: "I believe in teaching my children the facts of life gradually. I start with artificial flowers."

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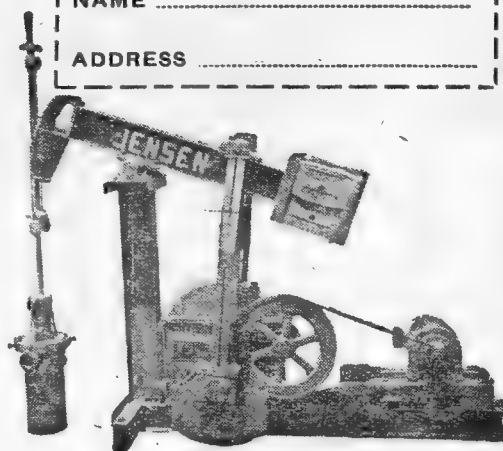
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Electricity Extending Among Farm Homes



Through the deep freeze, Farm Electrification has banished forever the farm's traditional problem of perishable foods. Fresh-frozen vegetables and meats are now on the menu throughout the year.

ELECTRICITY has contributed greatly to civilized living. It has provided the power which multiplied man's ability to produce wealth, and it has also made home living pleasant, less laborious and more entertaining.

In earlier times people in cities and towns were more favored with the abundance of electricity available to them. But in recent years this benefit has spread across the countryside.

Now well over 150,000 farms in Western Canada have been electrified and the number is constantly increasing. Where power is available farm people enjoy a standard of living comparable to that found in any city.

Electric power can be used on farms for operating a machine shop, for pumping water for stock or irrigation, for loading grain into granaries, for operating grinders, grain cleaners, etc. Jobs like electric welding can be done quickly and economically.

Then electric irons, toasters, frying pans, washers, vacuum cleaners, etc., can be operated; also refrigerators, deep freezes and such like.

Then there are the entertainment features—radio and television, which bring the world into the farm home, music, drama, news, sports, discussions and great events of every kind.

On any night a person driving through the countryside can always spot an electrified farm home. Usually the farm yard is brilliantly lighted and a comforting radiance comes from the windows of the home. There is always happiness in an electrified farm home.

In Alberta the electric power is provided by Calgary Power Co., Canadian Utilities Ltd. and Northland Utilities Ltd. These companies are expanding their operations every year, particularly in rural areas.

The average farm price for wheat in the 1955-56 crop year was: Manitoba, \$1.30 per bushel; Saskatchewan, \$1.26; Alberta, \$1.20, and B.C., \$1.26.

Electricity in the farm home has created a real transformation. First and foremost good lighting is pro-

FARMERS... ATTENTION!

U.F.A. Co-op has purchased the marketing facilities of Maple Leaf Petroleum Ltd.

Your Co-operative is now one of the largest petroleum jobbers in Western Canada.

Greater earnings should result and patronage dividends increase.

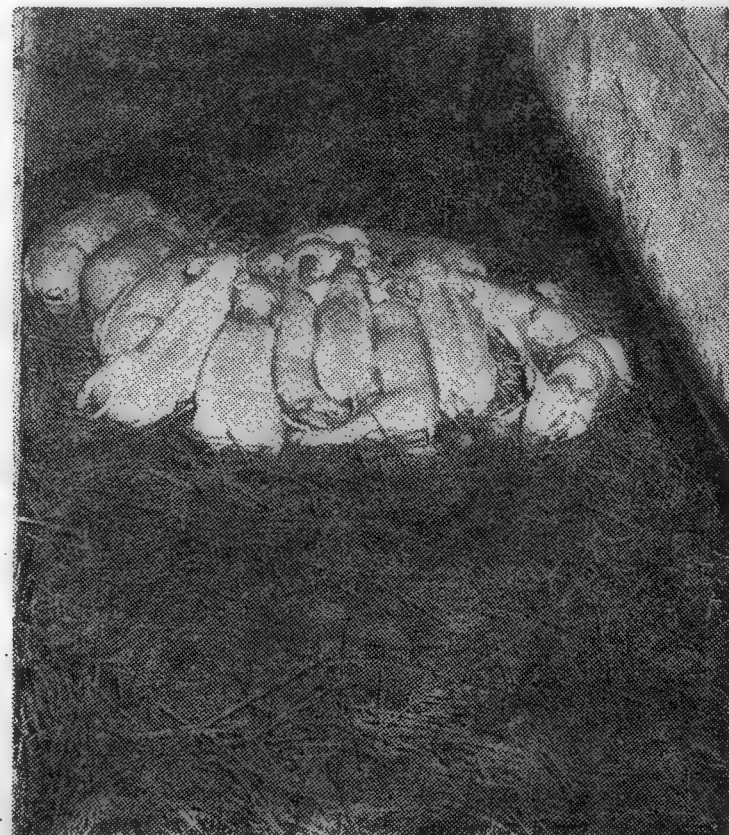
25,000 Alberta farmers last year used 27 million gallons of Maple Leaf products, and earned \$270,000.00.

Get your share of these savings by joining these satisfied users of Maple Leaf gasolines, motor oils and greases.

United Farmers Of Alberta Co-Operative Ltd.

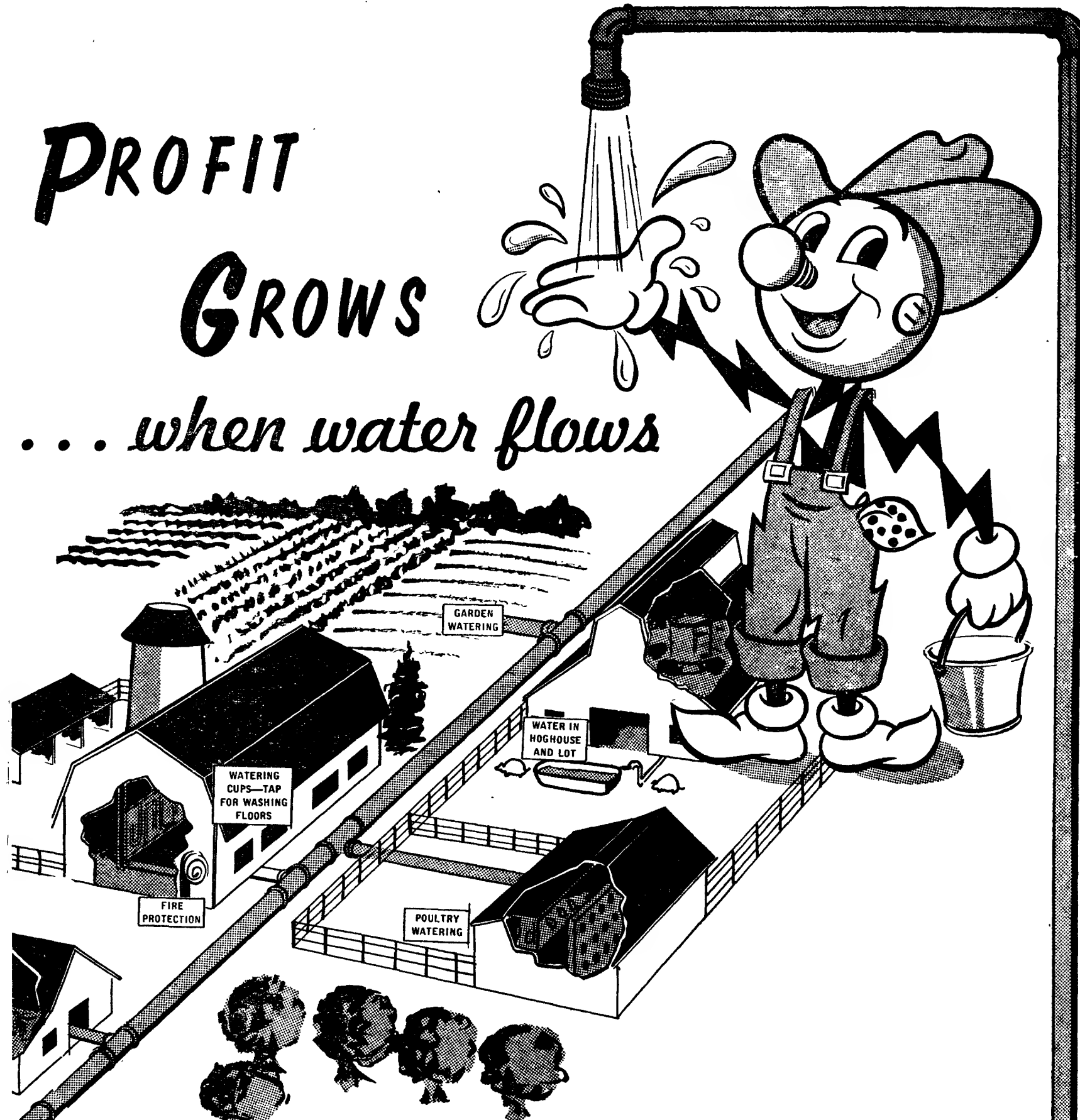
A successful farmer-owned Alberta co-operative

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To these thirteen little piglets the Electric Heat Lamp means cozy, safe comfort.

PROFIT GROWS ... when water flows



Pumping and carrying water by hand is not only hard work ... it's unprofitable! To compete with electric pumping you would have to pump 1,000 gals. (that's 4 tons) per hour! Yet for only pennies a day an electric pumping system running water to your home, your barns, wherever you

need it on the farm. It guards family health, and makes work easier, increases production of eggs, beef, vegetables. See your water system dealer now ... learn all the reasons why your investment in an electrical water system is an investment in profit.

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Carbon monoxide is a dangerous gas that is invisible, odorless and tasteless, and kills without warning. Starting a car or tractor releases these fumes. In a closed garage or farm workshop the fumes may cause the driver's death.

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DANDS LIVESTOCK SUPPLY
Swift Current, Sask



Along the Western Farm Front

At the Brandon Experimental Farm tests revealed that alfalfa and grass mixtures for pasture far exceeded the yields of grasses alone. The average yield of grasses alone was just 0.7 tons of dry matter per acre, and the grass-alfalfa mixture averaged 3.5 tons.

Results of experiments at the Lethbridge, Alta., Experimental Farm suggest that, where moisture is limited, sweet clover cannot be used profitably in dry-land grain rotations. Where yearly precipitation consistently exceeds 16 to 17 inches, sweet clover may be used as a companion crop to second-year wheat, ploughed

down reasonably early the next year and fallowed for the remainder of the season.

The Dominion Experimental Farm at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, does not recommend chemical spraying of grass seed production fields to control weeds. The chemicals presently available will do serious damage to the floral parts of grasses and result in greatly reduced yields. However, 2,4-D sprays may be used to good effect in the first year when the production fields are being established and no seed is harvested anyway.

Potato yields in Manitoba are frequently much lower than the possible yield, says the Brandon Experimental Farm newsletter. The reasons for the low yields include planting on weedy or otherwise unsuitable land, use of diseased seed, low fertility and lack of attention to spraying and cultivation. Losses also occur from careless handling at harvest. Average yields have been estimated at 100 to 150 bushels per acre where yields of 300 to 400 bushels may be grown with little difficulty.

H. B. Stelfox, forage crop specialist at the Lacombe, Alberta, Experimental Station, warns that despite its very attractive price, meadow fescue is not an entirely satisfactory substitute for either creeping red fescue or brome grass. Meadow fescue is particularly adapted to heavy moist soils and has no place in the drier areas of the brown and dark brown soil zones, any more than creeping red fescue. Meadow fescue is subject to severe winter-killing after the first year, but may be planted with brome to boost yield in the first year and allow the brome to fill in before the meadow fescue dies out.

Southern Alberta farmers found a good market for their Stewart and Mindum varieties of Durum wheat the past two years, but this movement may be not so good this season. Two years ago, American farmers in Montana and North Dakota were interested in our seed Durum and Canadian farmers made good sales. But now this flow has reversed itself, as Canadian farmers swing into production of the new rust-resistant American Durum named Ramsey. A movement of some 200,000 bushels of Ramsey into Canada is expected this spring, and in the meantime the price of our own registered Stewart and Mindum has dropped to \$2.50 a bushel. Alberta's Durum market in Southern Saskatchewan has also been lost, as Saskatchewan and Manitoba farmers switch over to Ramsey Durum which costs them about \$8.00 to \$9.00 per bushel United States, Blue Tag Registered.

TRENDS IN POULTRY

Decreasing profit margins for poultry raisers is being accompanied by a reduction in the number of small farm flocks and the appearance of more large commercial flocks. It is also being accompanied by a reappraisal of the breeds and crosses in use.

The heavier dual-purpose breeds are giving way to light breeds and crosses. There are two main reasons for this: (1) Poultry prices have been low in recent years, thus reducing the value of the carcasses; (2) light birds require less feed for maintenance than heavy birds and therefore produce eggs more economically than heavy birds.

Despite a natural reluctance on the

part of producers to switch from the heavier birds with their good growth, livability, and production records, the drop in income has dictated more economical egg production.

TIMES OF SEEDING

Specific dates of seeding grain cannot be stated because of wide variations from season to season. As a rough guide on seeding wheat, oats, and barley, seeding should commence as soon as a satisfactory seed-bed can be prepared. Where drought conditions occur frequently, it is good practice to seed oats and barley first, followed by flax and then wheat. Oats and barley suffer more from late summer drought and grasshopper damage than wheat does, and unless these crops are sown early, yields are usually low. — From Sask. Guide to Farm Practise.

Ruinous Prices for Eggs

IN last month's issue of The Farm and Ranch Review the statement was made in an editorial that farmers were getting less than 30c a dozen for eggs and that the floor price of 38c at warehouses failed as an effective means of protecting egg producers.

Since then Maurice E. Brown, of Alix, Alberta, provided an illustration of what happened to egg prices in February last.

He delivered a 30-dozen crate of eggs for which he received \$6.88, or an average of 22.9c a dozen.

Out of the 30 dozen eggs delivered, 28 dozen and 8 single eggs graded A's and out of that total 11 dozen and 10 eggs graded A large. There was nothing wrong with the quality.

Writes Mr. Brown: "The urban resident reads in his city newspaper that the farmer has a support price of 38c per dozen for eggs. That sounds pretty good so what is the producer crying about? It is time someone in a position to do so made the public acquainted with the facts. And it is also time producers got together and did something about the situation.

"I would urge every producer not to fail to register as soon as the opportunity is presented and get behind the effort to obtain an egg marketing board. We do not have to tolerate such shameful stealing."

The United Kingdom was by far the biggest single buyer of both butter and cheese from New Zealand in 1955-56. The U.K. took 311 million pounds of butter from New Zealand's total sales of 363 million pounds, and also took 188 million pounds of cheese from New Zealand's total cheese sales of 198 million pounds.



Smart Piglet helps himself at dairy bar. Photo by Mrs. Ben Maschke, Strome, Alberta.

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Operations of United States Farm Policy

EXPORTS of farm products from the United States are at the highest rate in 30 years, according to Ezra T. Benson, that nation's secretary of agriculture. Included therein is export of wheat which has reached 350,000,000 bushels since July 1, 1956. That volume is double the export figure for the same period in the previous year.

About two-thirds of the surplus farm product exports are for cash, but often on a long-term credit basis. The balance has been exported for foreign currencies, through barter and by means of gifts.

For every dollar's worth of farm products exported the loss to the United States' treasury was 30c. The government there now has \$5,000,000,000 worth of farm products in its possession and loans totalling another

\$3,000,000,000 on products not yet turned over to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the government agency in charge.

The United States farm policy provided for the Commodity Credit Corporation to advance loans to producers of corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco and peanuts up to 90% of parity. The producers could pay the loans and redeem their products before a specified date the following spring, or turn the products over to the Corporation. If prices rose they redeemed their products, otherwise the government agency took possession.

The governing act provided that to qualify for loans the producers must abide by acreage allotments. But they farmed their best lands while so doing, used fertilizers, and produced

almost as much as before acreage reduction.

In the past two years the support prices have been placed on a flexible basis which meant a scaling down, a move not very popular with producers. But the soil bank plan was introduced last year, which provided for acreage being taken out of production, seeded to grasses, planted with trees or devoted to other soil conservation purposes. Acreage seeded to grass cannot be used for pasture.

About 12,000,000 acres was placed in the soil bank last year, the cost to the government being \$261,000,000. Farmers must participate in government plans if they want to have the price support protection.

The government corporation has been able to dispose of surplus butter, cottonseed oil, linseed and other such products over the past year. Substantial sales of cotton have also been

made. Storage charges on all commodities in its possession have been running at one million dollars a day.

Mr. Benson said the price support plan was intended originally to provide protection when the bulk of surpluses came on the market, and not to store up huge surpluses. But it has not worked out that way. The war expanded the demand for food and resulted in inflation. It is difficult to contract the agricultural plant when demand falls off. He is hopeful that the soil bank plan will result in a better balance in the farming industry.

Sewing Under Difficulties

By V. M. HIGGINS

HOME sewing is often a pleasure as well as a money-saver when done under ideal conditions . . . plenty of space, a quiet room and no interruptions, but doesn't it develop into a headache sometimes when the phone rings constantly, the children keep running in with their little problems, or visitors and salesmen arrive unexpectedly? Often, on one of these days, I used to spend more time checking to be sure of the right side of the material, or the right one of two very similar pattern parts, than I did in the actual sewing.

A friend of mine told me she had the same difficulty, one day, and we put our heads together to discover a remedy. We couldn't of course, do anything about the children or the other interruptions, so we decided that there must be some way to mark the pieces so we'd be able to pick up where we had left off, and save all that fussing and sometimes, when we were in a hurry, ripping out the seams we'd made without checking after we came back from one of these interruptions.

The first bright idea we had was to leave the paper pattern pinned to its cloth duplicate until we were ready to sew each piece. It was a good idea and worked very well, but, oh, what wrecks it made of our precious patterns! The fragile tissue they were made of simply wouldn't stand up under the extra handling, and that brain-wave had to be regretfully abandoned. But as we tucked the tattered patterns away, we hit on the ideal solution. Before we start cutting out now, we equip ourselves with ten or twelve small labels cut from paper, each with a pin attached, and a lead pencil for marking. As each pattern section is cut, notched and marked, we pin on the label, marked "collar", "cuff", etc. If there are two identical pieces, we are careful to specify: "Left back panel", "right back panel," so that it may be identified at a glance, and we ALWAYS pin the label to the right side, which eliminates that checking entirely. It takes practically no time to do this, but what a difference it makes! The confusion which slowed us up after these interruptions has practically disappeared, and we go back to our sewing undisturbed, knowing we don't have to rip seams because we've mixed up our front and back panels, or made some other silly mistake as busy women sometimes will when they try to sandwich home dressmaking between their many other farm occupations.

Japan harvested a good rice crop last year and will not need to import as much wheat this crop year. Normal demand has been 84,000,000 bushels import a year.

"Warbies" in beef cattle cause an economic loss of five dollars a head, and yet warble fly control is not difficult or expensive, costing only a few cents for each animal treated.

Save money on your farm with



TRADE MARK

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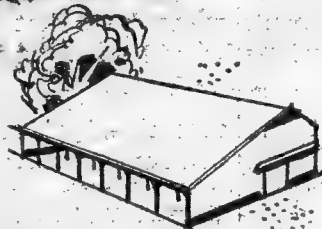


For long lasting fences... Low cost buildings, silos

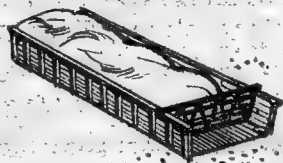
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Save time and work in upkeep and replacement—because CCC pressure treated fence posts, poles and lumber last 3 to 5 times longer than ordinary wood.

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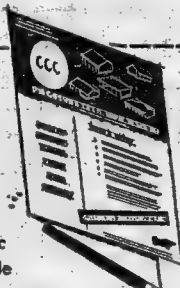
Pole barns, sheds, shelters.



Bunker silos sized to your needs. Self-feeding gate optional.

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DAIRYING

DAIRY PRODUCTS ADVERTISING

Dairy products across Canada set aside a record sum of over \$372,000 in 1956 for use in their 1957 advertising program according to information tabled recently at a meeting of the management committee of Dairy Farmers of Canada. Based on a deduction of a cent-a-pound on butter-fat marketed in June each year, the best previous set-aside was \$365,000 in 1954.

While officials of Dairy Farmers of Canada view the 1956 set-aside with satisfaction they are quick to point out that a 100 per cent set-aside in 1956 would have amounted to \$651,000. Main difficulty in reaching the potential has been experienced in Quebec and Ontario, the largest producers of milk and cream. The set-aside potential of these two provinces collectively in 1956 was \$462,000. Alberta and Prince Edward Island were the provinces closest to 100 per cent of the potential.

Latest returns reported from the various provinces were: British Columbia, \$12,558; Alberta, \$43,260; Saskatchewan, \$34,106; Manitoba, \$34,439; Ontario, \$141,097; Quebec, \$78,170; New Brunswick, \$10,116; Nova Scotia, \$10,445; Prince Edward Island, \$7,902.

Milk In The Human Diet

MILK has sustained the human race since time immemorial. The Bible tells of fortunate regions, those "flowing with milk and honey." But long before that milk sustained and nourished the human race.

Modern nations have recognized milk as one of the most perfect of human foods. The peoples of those nations who consume abundance of milk are strong, healthy, energetic, big-boned people.

Milk products supply 25% of all the protein required by Canadian people, according to Dr. L. B. Pett, chief of Canada's Nutrition Division, National Health and Welfare. He says that protein from milk is the best possible for building sound muscles in children and replacing worn-out tissues at all ages. Milk protein has a remarkable supplemental effect on cereal diets.

Over 80% of the calcium in Canadian diets comes from milk and milk products. The mineral calcium helps to form sound bones and teeth and it has numerous regulatory functions in the heart and blood. It is almost impossible to get all the calcium you need without using dairy products.

Milk supplies many vitamins which, in small quantities, are essential for good health and even life itself. Many small miseries, especially among older people, are caused by a lack of riboflavin. Milk supplies half the riboflavin in Canadian food supplies.

Calories are needed in human diet because energy comes therefrom. And milk supplies 14% of all the calories, or food energy, in Canadian diets.

Milk products have a place in the nutrition of the nation that is second to no other food group. This nutritional eminence derives from well-established facts about the composition of milk and about the value of its various constituents.

THE DIRTY DEAL

"Can you fix this fender so my husband won't know I bent it?"

"No, lady, but I can fix it so you can ask him how HE bent it."

DAIRY NOTES

Total sales of milk in the Vancouver area during 1956 were 81,206,252 quarts, an increase of 8.36%.

* * *

Canadian exports of mutton and lamb in 1956 were 43,000 pounds and imports 9.6 million pounds.

* * *

Over 90 per cent of all Canadians use milk, cream, or evaporated milk in their coffee according to a recent survey published by the Pan-American Coffee Bureau.

* * *

Consumption of butter in Great Britain is running at 7,000 lbs. a week. But stocks are so large it would require consumption of 7,500 lbs. a week to clean up the surplus.

* * *

The Alberta Holstein-Friesian Association has grown by 21 members in the past year and now totals 276 active breeders. The Association registered 1,420 young animals and transferred 991 during 1956.

* * *

Milk products supply over 25 per cent of all protein consumed by Canadians. Over 80 per cent of the calcium in Canadian foods comes from milk and milk products. More than half of all the riboflavin in our food supply is supplied by dairy foods.

* * *

Shirley Jackson, 20-year-old member of the Bearspaw 4-H club at Calgary, was the winner of the Junior Judging Competition held in connection with the selection of All-Canadian Holsteins for the current year. Altogether, 338 4-H boys and girls from all the provinces of Canada took part, but Shirley's record topped the rest with a score of 130 points out of a possible 140.

* * *

Healthy Holstein heifer calves can be weaned from milk at four weeks of age and raised successfully on a calf starter composed of materials other than animal proteins, according to F. Whiting and R. D. Clark of the Lethbridge, Alberta, Experimental Farm. Although protein of animal origin is not essential in calf starter, hay quality is important. The addition of aureomycin to the calf starter had no effect on body weights in the studies at Lethbridge.

* * *

Latest information on total per capita dairy products consumption among the major milk-producing countries of the world, ranks Canada in sixth place, after New Zealand, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Australia. In fluid milk consumption Canada is in sixth position but seventh in butter consumption, which last year amounted to 20.8 pounds per person. Canadians continue as the largest per person consumers of evaporated milk, but are in thirteenth position as cheese consumers.

* * *

The number of milk cows on farms in Canada at December 1st, 1956, was estimated to be 3,294,000 head, virtually the same as at December 1st, 1955. Due to improved feeding, breeding and management practices, however, production per cow has shown a marked increase and this trend is expected to continue. The Ontario Herd Improvement Association records show an average increase in milk production of dairy cows under that program of 1,200 pounds per animal over the past five years.

CHOOSE Your Hay and Pasture Mixtures NOW!

This is the time of year when you should be calculating your grass and legume seed requirements. Stocks appear to be ample this year, but there could be a big demand for Brome and Alfalfa seed so it would be wise to procure your needs as soon as possible.

As in previous years the branches of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool will supply your grass and legume seed at cost as a service to its members.

HOW TO GET YOUR SEED WITHOUT CASH — Any farmer may deliver to the elevator, grain over his quota for the purpose of buying seed. In return for this "over quota grain" he will be given a voucher representing the value of the grain delivered. The voucher will then be exchanged for equal value of seed. Vouchers will be honoured at any branch of the C. A. D. Pool.

First of all, get a list of seed prices from the branch of the Dairy Pool you do business with. Then calculate the amount of seed you will require and the total cost. Contact your elevator agent and arrange to deliver to him grain to the value of your seed requirements. You can then exchange your voucher for seed. Just a word of caution — calculate your needs carefully as you must take the value of your voucher in seed and seed alone.

When purchasing seed for Hay or Pasture do not forget that mixtures of grass and legumes have several advantages over grasses and legumes sown alone. There are various combinations that can be used to suit almost any purpose and condition. If you are in doubt as to the best mixture to suit your particular requirements we suggest that you consult your District Agriculturist who will be pleased to help in any way he can.

We might emphasize that the exceptional value of Creeping Red Fescue as a forage grass and soil improver is not yet fully appreciated. It is more palatable than most other grasses, including Brome, and produces a firm sod which resists trampling. It will not freeze down in the fall and provides splendid fall and winter pasture. When grown with a legume a very good quality hay is produced.

It looks as though we might get an early spring this year so be ready — get your seed NOW while stocks are complete and use the good facilities of your own organization through any of its branches.

PASS BOOKS — Did you send in your Pass Book Yet?

If not — please send it to Red Deer or hand it in at any branch — but you should not delay. Your book will be returned completed as soon as possible.

Central Alberta Dairy Pool

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• The 2200A Deep-Working Surflex comes in 7-, 10-1/2-, and 14-foot sizes, with 24- or 26-inch disks spaced 10 inches apart.

THE pleasure of doing good work is doubled when the job goes along smooth and easy. On a big tillage operation like summer-fallowing, it's downright enjoyable to use a tiller that shapes up the land the way you want it, without a lot of trouble.

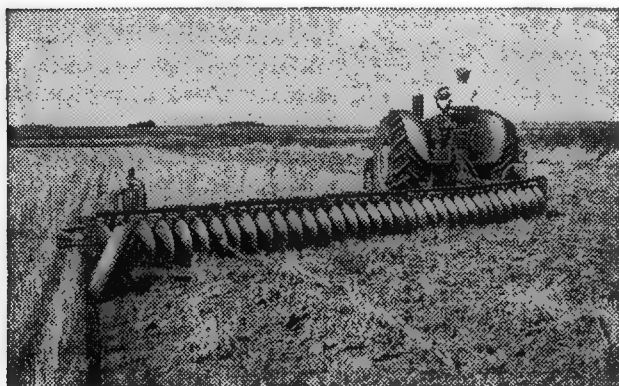
With a John Deere Surflex Tiller, you can expect good work and easy operation. It's a penetrating tiller, one that digs right in and stays in when the going is tough.

It's a flexible tiller, with individual gangs that are easy to adjust for even penetration without gouging or ridging. When you're working up rough or rocky

ground, you need a tiller that hugs the ground yet steps over obstructions.

You may be surprised what a big Surflex you can pull with your tractor. For all its weight and brawn, the Surflex rolls freely on anti-friction bearings. You get more work out of every gallon of fuel because there's less drag. You can grease the disk bearings only every 100 hours, or as often as you like—the triple seals let out excess grease and keep dirt from getting in.

There's a Surflex tiller or tiller-seeder that's tailor-made for easy good work on your farm. See your John Deere dealer for complete information. Write us for free literature.



• The 1200 Standard Surflex comes in 8-, 12-, 16-, and 20-foot sizes, with 18-, 20-, or 22-inch disks spaced 8 inches apart.

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"WHEREVER CROPS GROW, THERE'S A GROWING DEMAND FOR JOHN DEERE FARM EQUIPMENT"

Care of Young Pigs

(Saskatchewan Dept. of Agriculture)
SANITARY precautions should be taken to protect new-born piglets from disease. This can best be accomplished by cleaning the farrowing pen and then disinfecting with a solution of one can of lye in 10 gallons of warm water. A thorough spraying or sprinkling will kill those germs harboured in cracks and corners.

A week or ten days prior to farrowing, the sow may be moved into her new quarters so as to become accustomed to the guard rails before piglets come along. Guard rails, made of two-by-fours or larger timber, are placed approximately eight inches above the floor and the same distance from the walls. This lets young pigs get away from the sow when she lies down instead of being cornered and often crushed.

It is a good plan to feed warm slop to sows for a day or so after the pigs are born, increasing the ration gradually. Grain can be increased by a pound a day until feed is reached. Sows nursing a litter require 10 to 15 pounds of dry ration daily.

Special attention given piglets during the first few weeks will pay big dividends later on. The black teeth should be clipped off with a pair of side cutters in such a way as not to crush the teeth.

At the age of two weeks, or as soon as the pigs will eat something other than the sow's milk, they may be creep fed. Hulless oats and supplement or a commercial supplement in pellet or loose form is recommended. Also during the early weeks of their life, piglets should be given iron, especially in winter when they don't root in new soil. Amount recommended is enough reduced iron or ferrous sulphate to make a tablet about the size of an aspirin, given four times a week apart.

Balanced Rod Type Pumps

BALANCED beam rod type pumps show up to better advantage than any other, particularly in deeper wells. Thousands of them are to be found on western farms.

They are easily adapted for manual or power use, and for wells of shallow depth work very well with little maintenance costs. They are readily converted from one type of power to another.

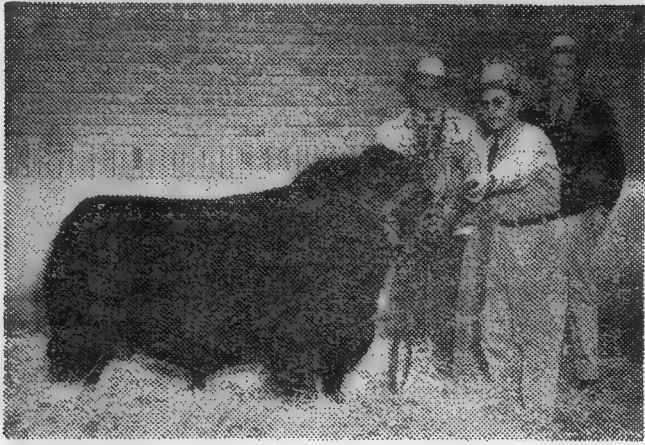
The balanced rod beam works on the same principle as the conventional type. It is used all over the world in the oil fields.

It is also efficient as a water-well pump. Water production is easily variable by varying the drive speed. Changing the length of the piston stroke, or size of the barrel within the well, makes it possible to accommodate a vast number of demand conditions without causing excessive wear or increasing power costs. The simplicity of construction makes it possible for the owner to do most of his servicing.

Balanced beam rod type pumps may be used at any depths up to 7,000 feet, and for volumes up to 50 gallons per minute. In summary this type of pump provides versatility, efficiency, simplicity and dependability, with low operating costs.

PUSH OR PULL

Entering a classroom to conduct a class in a university, the professor had an inspiration when he saw the word "Push" on the door by which he came in. Launching into a talk on aggressiveness, he announced that one quality more than another was necessary to success. His motto was inscribed on the door through which he had entered, he said. The students, craning their necks, peered at the sign on the door. It read: "Pull".



Grand Champion Angus bull; owners, Flint and Flint, New Norway, Alberta. Sold to L. Steeves, of Hanna, Alberta, for \$1,100. Charlie Good holding the halter, and at rear Chauncey Flint and son.



Grand Champion Hereford bull; owner, Louis Szasz, of Bentley, Alberta. Sold to E. V. Keith, Calgary, for \$4,000.



Grand Champion Shorthorn bull; owner A. R. Cross of Midnapore, Alberta. Sold to Clem Loughlin of Viking, Alberta, for \$2,300. L. to R.—Wm. Cameron, herdsman, and A. R. Cross, owner.

Big Money Paid At Calgary Bull Sale

AT the 57th annual Calgary bull sale held March 19th to 22nd, a total of 500 pure-bred animals brought \$415,745, or an average of \$519.68. In 1956 the total number sold was 841 for \$408,265, an average of \$485.45.

The Calgary event is the largest of its kind in the world. Nowhere else are so many bulls auctioned off on an individual basis at one sale. Everything considered this sale went very well.

Since 1901, when the Calgary bull sale was launched, 29,985 bulls have been sold for \$10,260,788.

Buyers attend these sales from all over the continent.

122 registered Shorthorn bulls at the 1957 sale brought an average of \$457.54. Top price was the grand champion owned by A. R. Cross, of Midnapore, which brought \$2,300.

117 head of Aberdeen-Angus bulls brought an average of \$456.41. The top price animal was the grand champion, owned by Flint & Flint of New Norway, Alta., which brought \$1,100.

561 Hereford bulls brought an average of \$545.14, and a total of \$306,105.

Top price was \$4,100, paid by Bill Studdert, of Philipsburg, Montana, for Wetmore Mixer LRD 6K, son of an English bred bull, sold by W. J. Edgar & Sons, of Innisfail.

The grand champion bull sold by Louis Szasz, of Bentley, brought \$4,000.

The Edgar setup, Little Red Deer Stock Farm, sold 5 bulls for an average of \$1,350. Bryce Campbell, of Stavelly, sold two bulls to Bill Studdert, of Montana, for \$1,330 and \$3,500, getting an average of \$1,369 for six bulls.

Auctioneers were Archie Boyce and Harry Hays of Calgary; C. F. Dameron, of Bentley; J. Allen Baker, of

High River, and Jock Blacklock, of Saskatoon. The official ringman was Tommy Dench, of Calgary. The sale was clerked by Arthur Ferguson, Livestock Superintendent of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Ltd.

Prairie Fertilizing Handbook

"FERTILIZING prairie Soils", a new handbook on fertilizer problems and practices in Western Canada, is now available to Canadian farmers.

Edited and published by the Chemical and Fertilizer Division of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited, the new brochure explains the principals of fertilizer use on the Prairies. Photographs, illustrations and charts are used to full advantage to show the vital role that Chemical Fertilizers are playing in the advancement of Prairie agriculture.

Cominco's 25 years of close association with fertilizer use and test work on the Prairies provides a sound background for the publication of this booklet that should be of interest to all Prairie farmers.

"Fertilizing Prairie Soils" can be obtained free of charge by writing to: Cominco Sales Department A, 1230 10th Avenue West, Calgary, Alberta.

Representatives of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, meeting in London, Ontario, recently were told of some of the restrictions in international cattle trade. They learned that calves born from artificially 'nseminated' cows could not be registered in the United States, if the bull was owned by more than three persons.

There were 7,401 slaughter cattle imported into Canada in 1956 and nearly 19 million pounds of fresh and frozen beef, a total in terms of dressed beef of over 22 million pounds.

During 1955 a total of 500,000 cows were bred artificially in Canada, and the number so bred in 1956 is said to be considerably higher.

1956 Livestock Marketings

All classes of livestock shipped to market in 1956 have shown an increase over 1955, with the exception of calves. Here is the breakdown of marketings for the West, as given by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics:

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
British Columbia	76,235	15,661	42,119	27,348
Alberta	696,992	139,502	1,571,929	154,917
Saskatchewan	417,249	92,312	576,806	33,461
Manitoba	203,271	89,427	387,908	33,195
Total for Canada	2,282,775	969,366	5,960,821	608,734

Total marketings of cattle, calves, hogs and sheep in Canada in 1956 were 9,841,696 head.

Of that total 4,561,332 head were marketed in the four Western provinces. Alberta was tops with 2,566,340 head; Saskatchewan had 1,119,828 head; Manitoba, 713,801 head and B.C. 161,363.

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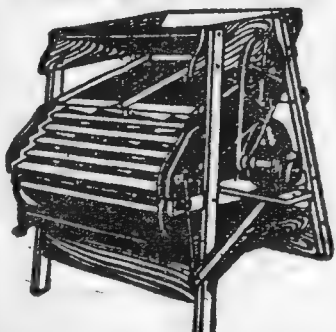
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I Saw ...

Last fall my mother and I gathered up a big box of kindling before the snow came; to light the fire with in the mornings. I put this box on top of an old couch on an open verandah and you know what, my dog Nipper jumps up into this box and has used it for his bed ever since, and he has packed the kindling down so much by turning round and round so the twigs wouldn't dig into him, that the box is only one-third full now. We never used the kindling as Nipper liked his bed so much.—Allan Finch, age 9, Strasbourg, Sask.

Last winter there was a lot of snow. I had to walk about three miles to school and there was about four feet of snow on our lane road. I left for school as usual, but when I got about 500 yards from the yard there was a moose about 20 feet south of me. I looked around as I was going to go around him and there on the north side about 20 feet away was another one. I made a noise, but they just stood there and looked at me. I was afraid to go by so came back home. I asked Daddy to come and he made a lot of noise and they went away fast. I had heard they were mean sometimes so I didn't want to take a chance, would you? — Linda Jones, Mayview, Sask.

Some weeks ago we were grinding feed for our cows. When we had a barrel ground we went back to the barn to get another barrel and when we got there we saw a goat which we left in the barn that morning by mistake and this goat, however, had two kids (twins). My stepfather came to the house and said for my little brother and I to go out to the barn because we were wanted by our sister.—Elizabeth Drader, Coutts, Alta.

A few days ago, as I was feeding the pigs on our farm, I went into the granary to get some chop for them, as I opened the door of the granary, there in the middle of the floor was a middle-sized skunk. It only took a few seconds to get up to the house. Soon my father came and we tried to get him out of the granary and kill him and soon enough we did get him out and we did kill him. — John Rohrich, Abbey, Sask.

Last summer a wild duck hen had a nest a little way from our house with ten eggs in it. After she had set a week, I took out seven of the duck eggs and put five hen eggs in the nest. Three weeks later the duck hatched out three ducks and three chicks, so I brought the chicks to the house and the next day the old duck had left with her three ducks. I raised the three chicks by hand until they were old enough to care for themselves.—Carol Hollenbeck, R.R. 4, Red Deer, Alberta.

Mom and I were going to get the cows. We saw a flock of Hungarian partridges. When my dog, Rover, saw them, he scared them away, but one could not fly. Mom ran after it and caught it. It had a broken wing. We brought it home and put it in a pen by itself in the chicken house. When I went to see it, I found the broken wing laying on the straw. The broken wing had fallen off, but the Hungarian partridge is very happy. When spring comes I will let it out. — Jean Cielinski, Thorsby, Alberta.

My brother and I were wanting something to do. Dad said he would cure us of that. He took us to a little knoll in a summerfallow field where there were oodles of gopher holes. He shot a few, but they would always go down their holes before they died. He left us to snare them. We came home with 22 gopher tails. The next two days we used traps and some snares. I don't know how many we caught those two days, but altogether there were seventy-two gophers less in the world. I just kept walking around in circles emptying my traps. I snared seven gophers from one hole. Dad said there were 100 to an acre. — Lawrence Moran, Huxley, Alta.

One day I decided to take a walk after the sheep and cows. I got half way up the hill when I saw the cows. I got the cows and chased them half way home, then started to look for the sheep. When I finally found them, they were nearly home. I heard a noise while looking for the sheep. I hurried over to the clump of sagebrush and to my surprise I found two kid goats. I found that they were Nubians. Sometime during the day another goat had lost her two kids. I found them on a side hill which looked like a rock. I moved closer to the hole and found the two kids laying side by side. I took them to their mother, and an hour later Dad came home from town and I told him about the kid goats. He was surprised that they were Nubians. — Edith Henline, Coutts, Alta.

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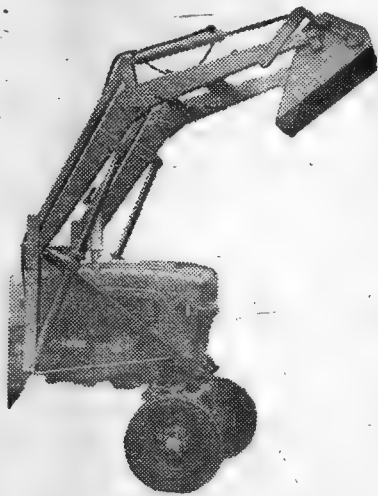
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AMMUNITION

Manitoba's Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation in convention assembled rejected a resolution which provided for amalgamation with the Manitoba Farmers' Union.

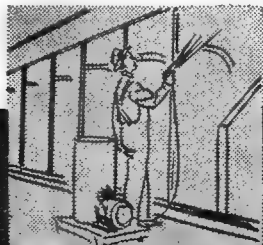
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Aunt
Sal
Suggests

There are fairs and exhibitions,
There are stampedes in the north,
But in Indio, in the desert,
The Date Festival holds forth.

I PROMISED you last month that if I got a chance to attend the Riverside County Fair and date festival, that is held each year down in the desert city of Indio I'd tell you all about it. I know that many of you in Canada have spent winters in the sunny south and I'm just hoping that you were lucky enough to "catch" the festival during your stay there.

It was George Washington's birthday (February 22nd), the day we went and I felt very adventuresome because I dressed in a colorful sun dress topped by an orange corduroy jacket. But if you could have seen the gaudy costumes of many of the other folk you'd admit that I looked as drab as a little field mouse. For you see, whereas in the north at our rodeos and such we are advised to "go western" and rig ourselves out in many galled hats and jeans and vari-colored shirts down at the Indio doings they "go eastern" and don turbans and flowing robes of every hue — the brighter, the better. And the impromptu saris favored by the fair sex are really something to wonder at.

The whole affair from start to finish (and it runs a course a week long) has a make-believe eastern quality. There are camel races and clumsy elephants lumbering around and of course a young beauty is chosen as queen to preside along with her royal court of attractive princesses in the parade and over every event. The Queen is given the long-titled name of Queen Scherazade, which is a high-falutin' name which defies pronunciation and spelling.

We're so used to seeing grains on show in the prairie provinces and hardy fruits in British Columbia so I know to those in the south displays of dates, figs, oranges, lemons, nuts and grapefruit strike them as commonplace. But to this northerner they all had a glamorous appeal. I declare I didn't dare do any name-calling until I peeked at the placards for there were dates that looked like prunes, lemons that were the color and size of oranges and grapefruit that resembled yellow footballs, so there is no wonder that I muttered "things are not what they seem".

Indio is smack in the middle of one of the greatest date-growing districts in the country, I guess in the world, so it is only to be expected that this has been chosen as the site of the only Date Festival in the United

States. One can see many date palms further north, in fact the streets in the city of Riverside are bordered by these high-reaching exotic-looking trees, but the climate isn't quite hot enough to mature the fruit so they have to be content to remain ornamental trees.

The day of days was rounded off by a pageant. Each year they give a different one, but they are all patterned on similar lines where the beautiful princess falls in love with a handsome beggar boy who proves to be a prince in disguise. The costumes are really (to borrow the slang expression) "out of this world", and the music and lighting correspond. Yet as the master of ceremony is careful to inform us the production isn't put on by professionals, rather the caste is made up of high school students, common, every-day folk — even housewives! But what impressed me the most was the audience. They occupied the 4,000 chairs and sat on walls and on the grass under the towering palms, but it was the most attentive audience I've seen. These Americans have been exposed to a great deal of professional acting and yet they received these amateurs with rapt attention. Maybe our American cousins aren't as sophisticated as we've been led to believe. Perhaps they are "just homey folks" like you and I.

Oscar's letter that week had told me of sub-zero weather and blizzards and here was I sitting out under the stars as blissfully as you please. Instead of feeling how lucky I was I felt downright guilty to be where I was — all this on the 22nd of February.

When I arrived in California I disembarked at the Los Angeles Airport, but when I leave I plan to drive down to Palm Springs and leave from there. You know Palm Springs is called the playground of the movie stars. This glamorous crowd works at Hollywood (when they aren't on location somewhere else), but they play at Palm Springs. But what I'm keener to see that any movie stars are the desert flowers. My sister, who has lived in California 35 years, tells me I mustn't miss them or I'll be sorry. They bloom forth in such gay abandon that one would think a giant hand hid above us had strewn the seeds with a generous gesture. I have already seen the typical yellow poppies and the stalwart geraniums growing in abundance, but there are so many fair unknowns that I'd like to get acquainted with.

On a previous trip down to the desert I visited one of the most famous and well established date plants in the whole Coachella Valley. There was a mammoth coffee bar (at which they didn't serve coffee), but instead the menu concentrated on all types of date concoctions including date malted drinks and date ice cream, and so on, and so on. There is one side product that they stress very hard and that is "date crystals" which are, I think, finely pulverized dates. In one of the cook books they put out I found this down-to-earth recipe. It really calls for these date crystals, but as these are not on the Canadian market, I think, we would have to substitute finely chopped dates, and I like to cook these a short time to make them more succulent.

Date Drop Cookies

1½ cups of brown sugar, 1 cup of shortening, 3 eggs, 3 cups of all-purpose flour, 1 tsp. baking soda, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1 cup chopped dates, ½ cup hot water, 1 cup chopped nuts, ½ tsp. salt.

Method: Pour the hot water over the dates. Cream shortening and sugar, then add well-beaten eggs. Add date

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Never scrape off sticking starch on your iron with a knife or other sharp tool. Use a damp cloth with a non-abrasive mild scouring powder, when the iron is cool. Then buff with a dry cloth.

A tangy spread for crackers is made by blending one-half cup of softened butter together with one-fourth teaspoon salt, one-half teaspoon paprika. Then add one-fourth cup crumbled blue cheese, two heaping tablespoons tomato paste or catsup or chili sauce. May also be spread on hot hamburgers.

Ammonia is an effective cleaner to use on the inside of ovens. Put a dish of ammonia inside the oven and leave it for several hours or overnight. Then clean with a damp, soapy cloth.

You'll never long for freshly baked cookies when you keep a roll of refrigerator cookie dough in your freezer. You can roll it as usual, freeze, wrap and seal. When ready to bake, slice with a sharp knife and bake in the usual manner.

When your white cotton gloves get soiled here is a good way to wash them: Wet the gloves and rub soap into the soiled spots. Roll each glove up tightly starting with the finger tips. Let the gloves lie for an hour or so, then wash briskly in warm soapsuds.

LINES TO AN ABSENT HUSBAND (Selected)

My dear, the house is spick and span
Since you are gone, untidy man.
This is the way a house should be,
I've always said, but — well, you see,
The clock has stopped. I can't persuade it
To run, the way you've always made it.
The door to the garage won't work.
The percolator now don't perk.
My kitchen knives are dull as care
Without your expert touch. And there
Is no one here to praise my pies,
Or comfort me with soothing lies,
Such as, "Of course, you're not too fat!"
A house, I find, though spick-and-span,
Is not much fun without a man.

Was there ever a grandparent, bushed after a day of minding noisy youngsters, who hasn't felt that the Lord knew what He was doing when He gave little children to the young people?

mixture then nuts and dry ingredients. Drop from spoon on to baking sheet allowing room for cookies to spread. Bake 15 minutes at 375° F.

Now there isn't anything outstanding about this recipe, it is simply what one would name a good basic recipe. I didn't have to come all the way to California to learn this, surely. But it just goes to show that even the head of this large date-testing kitchen likes the simple recipes too.

By the time you read this I'll be back home again, and feeling much, much better, thank you. For a while I'll have to skip my question and answer page in order to get caught up with all the back work I've had to forego during my time of disability. But many of you will be hearing from me privately and all of you will be hearing from me on this page.

Bye bye for now, and every good wish.
Aunt Sal.

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Sodbuster And Soldier Of The West

By CAMERON REID

"HUGHES, I have a special job for you," said the commanding officer at Army Headquarters somewhere in France during World War I.

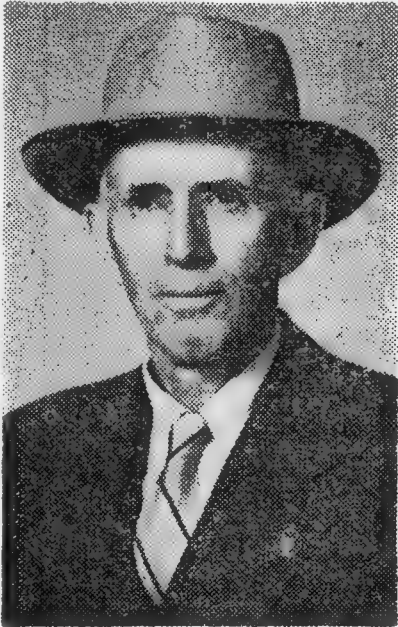
"Yes, sir?" replied the young Canadian officer, waiting expectantly at attention.

"Hughes," continued the O.C., "you are a farmer and know how to do these things. I want you to look around and find a spot suitable for a kitchen garden, and raise vegetables for the troops."

"Very good, sir, and about how many men did you have in mind?"

"Quite a few — maybe a million in all."

And that was how Col. John McKendrick Hughes received one of the biggest assignments of his life—helping to feed the Allied Expeditionary Force in France, a job which was to call for all the farming experience and organizing ability he had acquired while pioneering on the rolling farm lands of Western Canada.



Colonel John McKendrick Hughes.

But tough jobs were nothing to this young Canadian army officer. He had run into a few before going overseas with the Edmonton regiment that he had helped to train back in Alberta, "the land of the big blue sky" as he often fondly termed his adopted province when trying to describe it to some of the British officers in the unit to which he was attached. Like many other Canadians "Over There" thousands of miles from homes they loved, John Hughes never lost an opportunity to talk about the land so constantly in his thoughts.

When war was declared in 1914, the Alberta farmer from the park lands around Vegreville had left his wife, his family and his farm to fight for his country. After a distinguished war record, Col. Hughes returned to the land of "the big blue sky". With the war behind him he was determined to pick up the threads of his life so rudely interrupted by the European war mongers. Like his land-minded fathers before him, there was one thing that he wanted above all others — a good farm and the freedom to work it in the best interests of his wife and family.

Roots in the Soil

This keen love of farming displayed by Col. Hughes is no accident, not when you get to know his background. He was born in 1882 on a farm in the Maritimes not far from the spot where his Welsh and Scottish ancestors had first settled about 1770. By the time John arrived on the

scene, the family fortunes were gradually facing westward, his parents settling in New Brunswick, later moving to Massachusetts.

Then about 1880 the real westward trek began for the Hughes family when they moved first to Winnipeg and then south across the United States border to the rich farm lands of the Red River Valley in Minnesota. Here John had most of his formal education, attending school until he was 14 years old when he started to work full time with his father on the farm. It was here, too, that he had his first contact with a wheat that was to mean much to Canada and his own fortunes. This was Red Fife wheat and he recalls that his father brought the seed down from Manitoba, the northern seed even then being

considered more vigorous than that grown further south.

In 1898, the eyes of the world were on Canada's northern frontiers and the gold fields of the Yukon. And it was during that year that the Hughes family once again came back to Canada and did a Westward Ho! to Edmonton, the Gateway of the North. One look at the rich farm lands nearby and the land-minded Hughes decided to stay right there, buying a farm near Fort Saskatchewan, part of which is now occupied by the huge industrial firm of Sherritt Gordon.

Hughes the Homesteader

After helping his father for a few years on the family farm, young John Hughes started to branch out on his own. In 1902 he homesteaded on a quarter section of land near Innisfree where he says he turned the first sod in the township.

When he had proved up on his homestead, John and his brother Robert together bought a farm near Lavooy, as well as giving a hand on the home farm at Fort Saskatchewan. It was here that he obtained his first start in farm co-operatives, helping to organize the United Grain Growers and to build an elevator in that area.

That was the beginning of more than 50 years of service to Alberta

(Continued on page 34)

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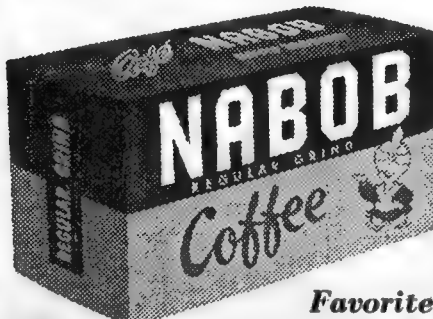
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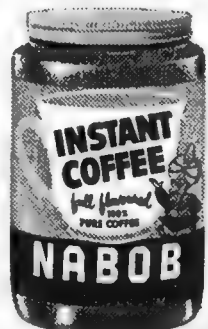
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(Continued from page 33)

The "Hungry Thirties"

agriculture, during which time he lent many a helping hand in the organization of various farm co-operatives. Today Col. Hughes is an Honorary Life Member of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, and has played a prominent part in the forward march of agriculture in Western Canada. For many years he was director and secretary of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool; since 1941 he has served in a similar capacity and also as president of the Alberta Seed Growers' Co-operative of which organization he is again secretary for 1957.

Farm co-operatives, however, have not taken up all of his time for where ever Col. Hughes has settled he has found time to serve on church organizations and on school boards. As so often happens with those who have been denied many educational advantages when they were young and who later had to make it up the hard way, Col. Hughes has always been keenly interested in seeing that the young folk had schools — and good teachers. And that was how he came perhaps to meet and marry one Sara Paul, a Scottish school teacher, who came out to Fort Saskatchewan in 1910.

No one will ever know how he found time for it in addition to all his other activities (paying court to a certain school teacher took time, too!), but John Hughes was always keenly interested in army life and used to gather on certain occasions with lads of similar inclinations around Fort Saskatchewan. And so when the province of Alberta was formed in 1905, it was only natural that this same group should form a company of horse and ride in the provincial procession in Edmonton. The following year this company formed the nucleus of C-Company of the 19th Alberta Dragoons in which John Hughes won his commission in 1909 when he retired from the army a few years ago. he was Lt.-Colonel commanding the reserve regiment of this same unit).

The years between 1919 (when he returned from Overseas) and 1929 were busy ones on his farm near Vegreville, Col. Hughes recalls, but they were happy ones for him with his wife and four sons beside him to share whatever each new day might bring in the land of the big blue sky. But anxious and troublous times, alas, were just around the corner.

When the "Hungry Thirties" threatened to sweep the country, Col. Hughes knew that 30-cents-a-bushel wheat and comparatively high-priced land just wouldn't work out for him or any farmer — cheaper land must be found. Eventually this was done and in 1930 he and some neighbors from around Vegreville started to move their families, livestock and equipment some 110 miles north of Edmonton and across the Pembina River from Flatbush, about 50 miles north of Westlock on the Peace River highway.

Here, in a settlement that has since become known as Athabina lying as it does between the Athabasca and Pembina rivers, Col. Hughes once again became a homesteader at an age when most men are thinking of taking life perhaps a bit easier. This time, however, he had a wife and four stalwart sons to help as well as some neighbors from around Vegreville who had come north to pioneer a new frontier with him.

Soon a large, rambling two-story log house started to take shape on the Hughes' homestead. Eventually this became not only the family home, but often served as a church and a general meeting place for all the good folk who kept trickling into the grey wooded soils where a farming community was in the making.

But Col. Hughes and his neighboring homesteaders soon were to discover that they were indeed living on the frontier. The post office and trading center for the district was (and still is) at Flatbush five miles

away across the Pembina. Before the ferry was installed the river could be forded in spots — if you were lucky. Today the community rejoices that the government is building a fine steel bridge to link the settlement with Flatbush and the outside world.

Wolves and bears have been known to play havoc with livestock in the district and the eerie howling of coyotes can still be heard from their forest hideouts. Some years ago bush fires became a sudden, flaming threat to some farms in the area and only quick, united action saved the day for the pioneer homes.

Isolation is said to be a spur to community effort and at Athabina the old-timers at first did much of their own road building until the government machines were able to get in to help. Most community efforts there are sponsored by an organization known as the Athabina Athletic Association formed in 1930. When first started the monthly meetings were called on the Saturday night closest to the full moon, to better facilitate members avoiding mud puddles in the road, which the poorly lit vehicles used at that time!

By the time that Thanksgiving had rolled around in 1930, Col. Hughes and his friends decided to give grateful thanks to the Lord of the Harvest at a special chicken supper in their newly built community hall. This was the first of many annual gatherings that have since become known as the Athabina Harvest Homecoming, which every year attracts many oldtimers and their families, some even driving 200 miles to take part in an evening of good fellowship rich in memories of the past.

The Sage of Athabina

This coming Thanksgiving Col. Hughes, who has been chairman of the homecoming ceremony for many years, says that he is planning something special. He hopes to produce a play illustrating the history of the settlement and he is now busy writing the script of what he expects to call the SAGA OF ATHABINA.

After 50 years of pioneering in the west, nothing seems to daunt this sodbuster and soldier as he now begins a new career of writing. About six years ago he decided that he would rather write a story than read one and since then his free moments have been devoted to creating various characters and watching them move across the pages of his eight novels and some 36 short stories.

Some of Col. Hughes' literary efforts he has attempted to have published, but others he has written for his own pleasure and the joy that comes to a writer from creating things. Friends who have been privileged to read some of his books claim that some day his literary works may be as well recognized as have been his efforts in helping to organize various farm co-operatives in Western Canada.

No one can rightly accuse Col. Hughes of being a proud man, for he is far from that. But he does take pride in the fact that he and his four sons each served their country on active service approximately five years, giving a total of 25 years or a quarter of a century of service in two world wars and on many fronts.

Truly a record of which any man might well be proud.

Canadian labor income in 1956 rose to a record of \$14,284,000,000, an increase of 11.5 per cent over 1955's \$12,810,000,000, according to the figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

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THE WORLD TODAY

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FACTS ABOUT FARMING

1:20 — 1:35 p.m.

P.M. NEWS...

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THE WORLD TO-NIGHT

11:00 — 11:30 p.m.

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FARM NOTES

Canada exported 3,900 sheep and lambs last year, a 53% decrease and 18,584 head imported.

If cannibalism breaks out among your pullets, the one positive way to stop it is to cut the upper beak back about one-third way.

A mixture of oats, barley and fall rye seeded in the spring makes a good annual pasture for hogs. Such provides vitamins and proteins for the animals.

Five bales of superfine Merino wool sold for \$4.30 (Canadian money) a lb. at an Australian sale. This is a world record price. An Italian firm was the purchaser.

The United States cannot sell farm products to Poland unless congress amends a previous act which was passed to restrict trade with Iron Curtain countries.

Domestic production in the United Kingdom provided the home market in 1955 with 63% of its beef and veal needs, 32% of lamb and mutton, and 44% of bacon.

In a three-year test completed at Iowa State College cross-bred pig survival was 6% higher than purebred, growth in the crossbreds was 9% higher and feed efficiency 2% higher.

Increased income increases beef consumption to a point, but beyond that point less beef is eaten, says Dr. W. Darcovich, of the economics division, Canadian Department of Agriculture in Edmonton. Choice becomes evident and there is a demand for variety such as other meats, poultry and more expensive types of fish.

Cattle raisers in British Columbia supply only between 40% and 50% of the beef consumed in that province.

Most experienced gardeners make at least three plantings a season of standard vegetables like carrots, lettuce, corn, beans and peas. They plant the first batch as early as possible, a second batch from two to three weeks later, and the third later again. In this way the harvest is also spread over weeks instead of just a few days.

U. S. LIVESTOCK STATISTICS

Cattle numbers have started downward in the United States. As at January 1 the total was 95,166,000, compared with 96,804,000 on January 1, 1956, a decline of 1,638,000. This is the first decline in cattle numbers since 1953.

The following table gives numbers of cattle as estimated by the U.S. department of agriculture, as at January 1, 1957:

All cattle and calves	95,166,000
Beef cattle	60,708,000
Beef cows, two-years old	
and older	24,936,000
Milk cows, 2 years old	
and older	23,028,000
Estimate of numbers of other livestock:	

	Jan., 1957	Jan., 1956
Hogs	52,207,000	55,173,000
Sheep	30,838,000	31,273,000
Horses & mules	3,558,000	3,928,000
Chickens	392,811,000	382,846,000
Turkeys	5,745,000	4,923,000

The average value per head of all cattle on Jan. 1, 1957, was \$91.60, compared with \$88.00 a year previous; of hogs per head, \$24.70 and \$17.70.

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Every year Alberta farmers save thousands of dollars by delivering grain to their own Alberta Wheat Pool elevators. Service is provided at cost and earnings of this farmer-owned co-operative are returned to member patrons in proportion to their deliveries.

Over the years, these patronage refunds have totalled close to \$20,000,000.

On a per bushel basis the refund on wheat has averaged 2¾ cents a bushel during the past fifteen years.

Here is how an average farmer, located in southern Alberta, has actually benefitted by delivering to the Wheat Pool.

Joined the Pool in 1942 and invested \$5.00 in reserves.

Average deliveries, 2,600 bushels annually.

Patronage dividends received :

Cash	\$ 354.91
Reserves	828.46
Total	\$1,183.37

Thousands of farmers who have made larger deliveries have received far greater dividends. At the same time they have received the very best in grain handling service.

JUST AS IT HAS PAID THIS FARMER, IT WILL PAY YOU TO HAVE YOUR GRAIN HANDLED AT COST THROUGH FARMER-OWNED ALBERTA WHEAT POOL ELEVATORS.

ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
Farmer-Owned Co-operative

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Wheat Pool Presents Brief

A DELEGATION representing the three Western Wheat Pools met with three federal cabinet members in Ottawa and urged better treatment by the Canadian government of farmers in the west. Among the proposals were :

1. A domestic price for wheat which would be based on farm costs and national living standards rather than on export price.

2. An adjustment payment by the federal treasury to compensate for the discount on grain prices resulting from the high level of the Canadian dollar, which has been running at a 4% premium over the U.S. dollar.

3. The encouragement of wheat exports through credit sales to importing nations, relief dispositions, and similar plans such as are in effect in the United States.

4. Payment by the treasury of the carrying charges on all grain in commercial storage positions at the end of each crop year. Last year legislation was passed for the payment of carrying charges on stocks of wheat in excess of 178,000,000 bushels, which was considered a 15-year average carryover. The cost was \$31,500,000.

5. Reduction of interest on grain loans. The limit of such grain loans was raised from \$1,500 to \$3,000 last month. The interest rate was not then established. Last year it was 5%.

6. Greater use of the Agricultural Prices Support Act in maintaining adequate floor prices on farm products.

7. Provision of deficiency payments by the treasury as a means of bolstering depressed agricultural prices.

* * *

CO-OP LIFE INSURANCE

In its tenth year of operation the Co-operative Life Insurance Company, with head office in Regina, recorded total insurance in force of \$77,000,000. The co-operative operates in all provinces of Canada excepting Quebec. Saskatchewan heads the list in patronage and Ontario comes second.

* * *

The annual brief presented to the Federal Cabinet by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has again called for greater use of the Agricultural Prices Support Act, improvement in the Canadian Farm Loan Board and a Federal program of emergency credit. The operation of the Canadian Farm Loan Board was described as unnecessarily cautious and conservative, both as regards appraisal practices, and percentage of appraised value loaned out on first mortgages. Also needed, the Federation said, is a system of emergency loans on an interest-free basis for farmers seriously handicapped by natural disasters such as flood, frost, etc.

Pool Cash Distribution

Late last month the Alberta Wheat Pool distributed \$170,850 to members who had reached the age of 75 years prior to January 1, 1957.

This payment was part of an allotment of \$442,000 allocated for the purchase of Pool reserves. Previously \$236,700 was distributed as purchase price for reserves held by members who had retired from farming, and also from estates of deceased members.

The reserves of the Alberta Wheat Pool have been acquired by members as part of their patronage dividend payment on deliveries to Pool elevators. It is with the reserves that the ownership of the organization lies. It is the plan of this co-operative to keep these reserves revolving so that they will always remain with men or women who are actively engaged in farming.

* * *

Spring In Your Living Room By BERYL RASMUSSEN

THE winds can blow and you can still have snow and yet in your living room enjoy silvery pussywillows, weeping willow and birch in full bloom blossoming weeks ahead of their natural time. If you are the proud owner of a crabapple, apple or plum tree, they also can provide fragrant blossoms for your indoor pleasure long before the final drift of snow has reluctantly oozed away from its protective shade under the above-mentioned trees in your backyard.

Cut the branches during a thaw which is always the prelude to spring. Cut the stems the length to fit your containers and hammer the ends lightly so they'll absorb water more readily. Lay the branches flat in a large pan of tepid water overnight so that they absorb a thorough soaking. Keep them completely submerged during the soaking by laying a blanket of newspapers on top.

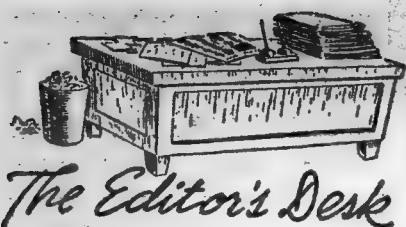
The next day you will find the branches pliable and easy to bend into graceful curves. Put the finished arrangement in a warm room. The fruit branches take up to six weeks to bloom but the willows and birch will bloom within two weeks.

To hasten their blooming spray the buds each day with warm water which is a very good substitute for the warm spring rains, and keep the container well filled. If you cut more branches than you need, you can retard some of them by keeping them in a cool room in cool water. A better thought is to put them in a separate container in a warm room and when they come into bloom give them away as gifts to a shut-in or a sick friend. Although Easter comes early in April this year, we can never be certain on the prairies that Easter time will mean blossom time outdoors. So for a whiff of spring in winter try this once and every year when an early March thaw comes with its portent of spring ahead, you'll find yourself snipping off branches from your favorite tree or down by the creek gathering willow branches and bringing them indoors.

Farm Census Figures

Farm statistics gathered by the 1956 census have been issued by the Dominion bureau of statistics and are as follows :

Farm Numbers		
	1956	1951
Manitoba	49,201	52,383
Saskatchewan	103,391	112,018
Alberta	79,424	84,315
British Columbia	24,748	26,406
Canada	575,015	623,091
Farm Acreages		
	1956	1951
Manitoba	17,931,817	17,730,393
Saskatchewan	62,793,979	61,663,195
Alberta	45,970,395	44,459,632
British Columbia	4,538,881	4,702,274
Canada	173,926,691	174,046,654



Finance Minister Harris urges Canadian people to save more money. But people will not save money when prices are on the rise.

Note from H. I. Morton, of Shoal Lake, Manitoba: "If Alberta Social Crediters have any spare dividends they might send them along. We are short of oil."

A subscriber writes to enquire if I am "anti-American." Sometimes. My wife comes from Oregon.

During the recent gasoline shortage in Britain, a Scot is said to have poured a bottle of Scotch whiskey into his gas tank and to have completed his journey successfully, if sorrowfully, on the whiskey.

A dollar of Canadian savings in 1900 is now worth 30c in purchasing power. In the past year alone the value of the Canadian dollar declined by 3½c.

A three-point rise in the consumer index in the United States, which occurred in the first ten months of 1956, created an additional annual cost to the people of that nation of \$7,500,000,000. That's the way inflation works.

"Collective bargaining — union and management get together to collect from the farmers." Quoted from remarks by Ezra T. Benson, U.S. secretary of agriculture.

It takes six times as many acres to feed a given population by growing grain for livestock and consuming livestock products, as it does if people eat grain direct.

As urban population grows in the prairie provinces the shift of political power is moving more to the cities. In Manitoba six rural seats in the legislature has been transferred from rural areas to Winnipeg and Brandon. In the legislature of 57 seats, Winnipeg will have 20 and Brandon will have one.

A copy of a chain letter received by a reader in Manitoba has been forwarded to the editor. It asks that the recipient send four copies to friends to bring them good luck. It warns that anyone breaking the chain will have bad luck. This no-sensical practice borders on voodooism and should be discouraged. The man who sent the letter to me says sending such letters is against the law. If not, it should be.

THE FARMERS' DILEMMA

The Editor:

In the January issue of the Farm and Ranch Review I was pleased to read the article, "Railway Unions Have the West in Their Grip." I wish that more people would look in the right direction to see why the farmers have trouble getting parity prices.

The price of almost every article we buy and every service we pay for is determined by unions or trade organizations which have taken their particular activity in their grip.

There is no reason why a man should not receive all that trade will give him for any product or service he has for sale. He has, however, no right to in any way restrict his com-

petitor from under bidding him for his market.

The railway workers, through their unions, are quite right in asking what they will, but they have no right to force all railway workers into their unions or to dictate as to who or who not the railways shall employ.

No man owns his customer or his competitor. Until that principle is recognized and enforced by law the farmer will never be certain of parity prices. — Crosbie McNaught, Halcourt Alberta.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON STATE

The Editor:

I read your March number the same day it came and enjoyed everything in it. Hubby got quite a kick out of the old-time stories. He had attended the second Stampede held in Calgary, and we would surely love to get to another as we went to several while living up there. It's the most spectacular one of its kind in the world.

I hope more papers take up the problem of veterans on the land. Their debts surely should be written down. Most of them bought after the good years of prices, all the best land was gone and they had to take what was left at an inflated price. Surely the government should appreciate what these boys did over there, not only the federal, but the provincial government could see that they had electricity installed free, if they are at all grateful. Much has been done for vets down here and still there is more help to come if they make a go of it, especially in the irrigated districts, such as Moses Lake in this State. The Farm Bureau and Grange are on the ball for them, also Farmers' Union, so they will get another chance.

I'm glad you published copy of old-age pensioner's cheque, and I notice it is marked "Federal". Does the province contribute any help? Down here, the most of the pensioners get \$65 a month, but if they are homeless, money is added for rent. If ill, hospital service and doctors are included. I have a friend whose house burned, so her pension was raised to \$125 a month, besides some health benefits. This figure is worked out between state and federal.

Some time back, I noted that you were trying to get grain sold by the hundredweight. It recalled to mind a time back in 1902 when my folks moved from here to California, where my father farmed a grain place near Stockton. All grain was sold there by the hundredweight and father was loud in its praise of it. At present in this state, barley and oats are figured by the ton as it is all used locally for feed. Wheat is still the bushel basis, but isn't nearly so easily figured, so hope we eventually get it all on the hundredweight basis.

I note some legislators here are being pressured on account of the rise in cost of paper pulp from Canada. It's affected your paper, too? I wonder is there a tariff on it coming down here, paper pulp, I mean. Ike is trying desperately to reduce tariffs between U.S. and foreign nations, but meets with much orthodox opposition. However, he is gaining some ground. — Cora J. Kerns, R. 4, Walla Walla, Washington.

Swapped Ends

The young wife of a few months was asked how she liked married life. "Oh," she replied, "there isn't much difference. I used to wait up half the night for George to go, and now I wait up half the night for him to come home."

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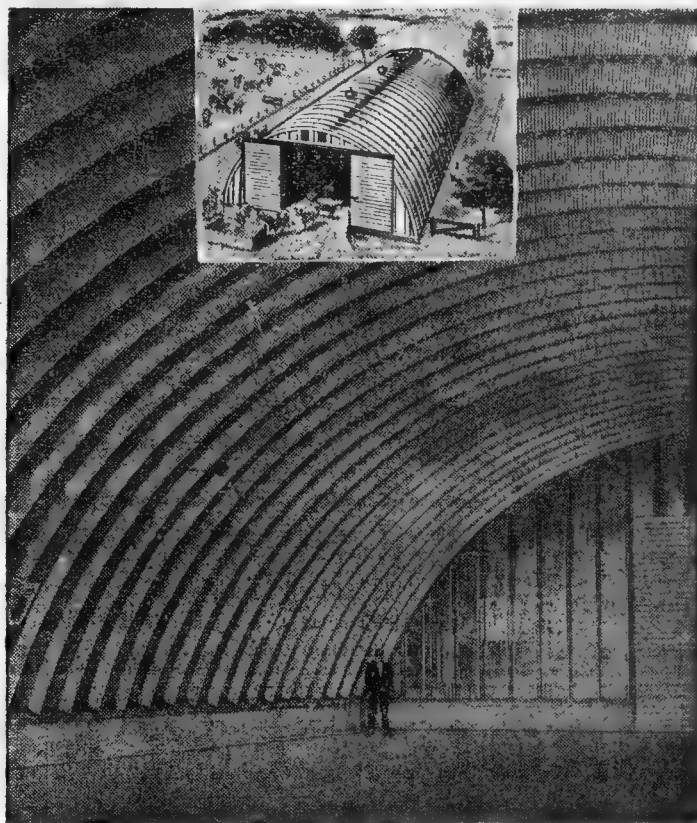
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I SAW . . .

One fall a whistler swan landed on a pond with our geese. It tried to make friends with our geese, but they would have nothing to do with it. It stayed about two weeks. The water was freezing hard at night. Then it flew south and we never saw it again. Some of our geese are white, and we think that is why it stayed so long.— Stanley Morton, Whelan, Sask.

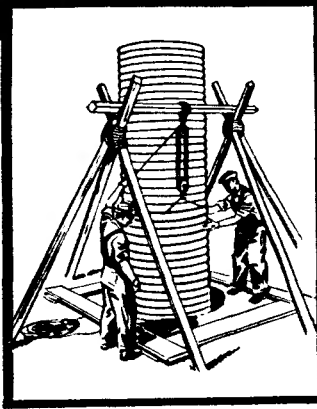
the 1950 figure of 5,382,162, and the lowest number since 1890.

Flax has shown little response to phosphate fertilizer on summer-fallow. Nitrogen has improved yields of flax in some trials on stubble. A broadcast application of nitrogen on flax before seeding is worthy of a trial.

The U.S. census bureau reports the number of farms in that country as shown by the 1954 census to be 4,782,412, a decline of 599,746 from

World production of wheat in 1956 is estimated at 7,545,000,000 bushels and of rye 1,360,000,000 bushels. That is the second largest production of bread grains in world history.

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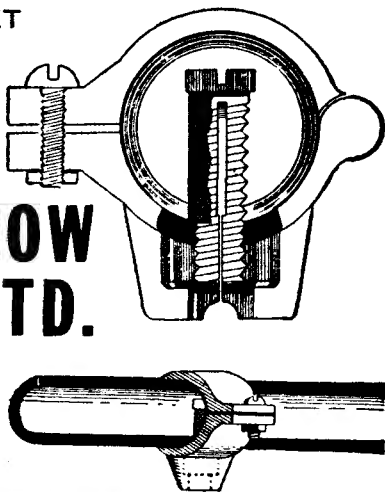
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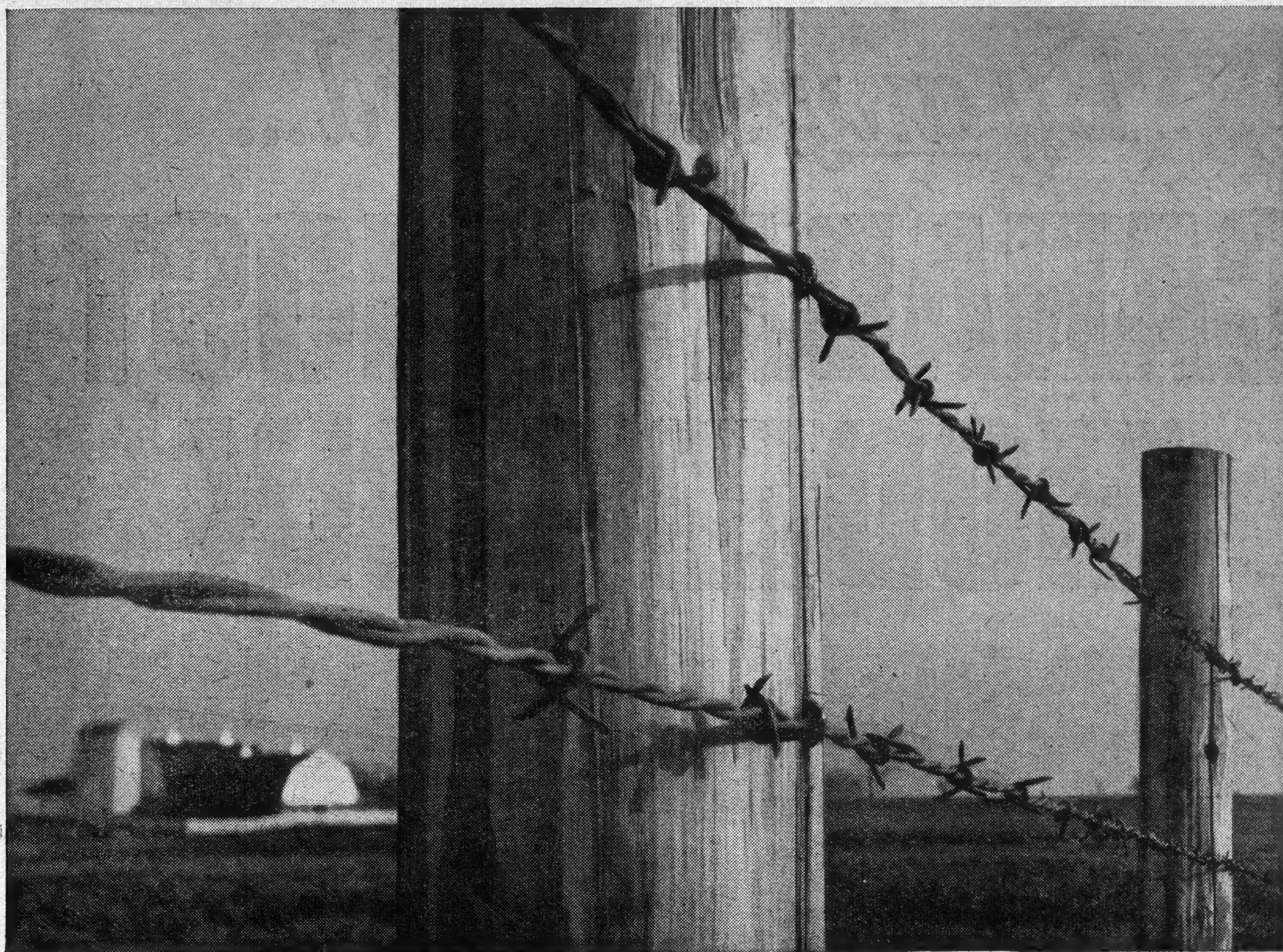
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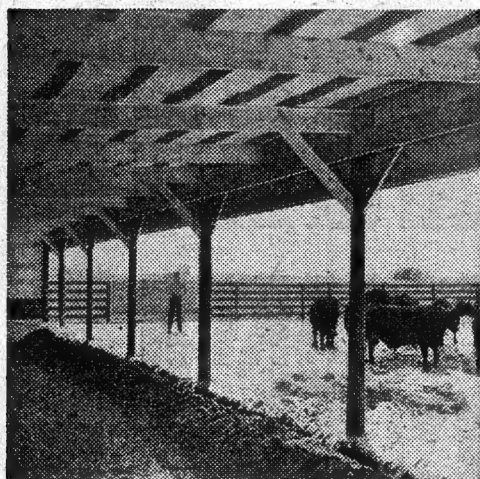
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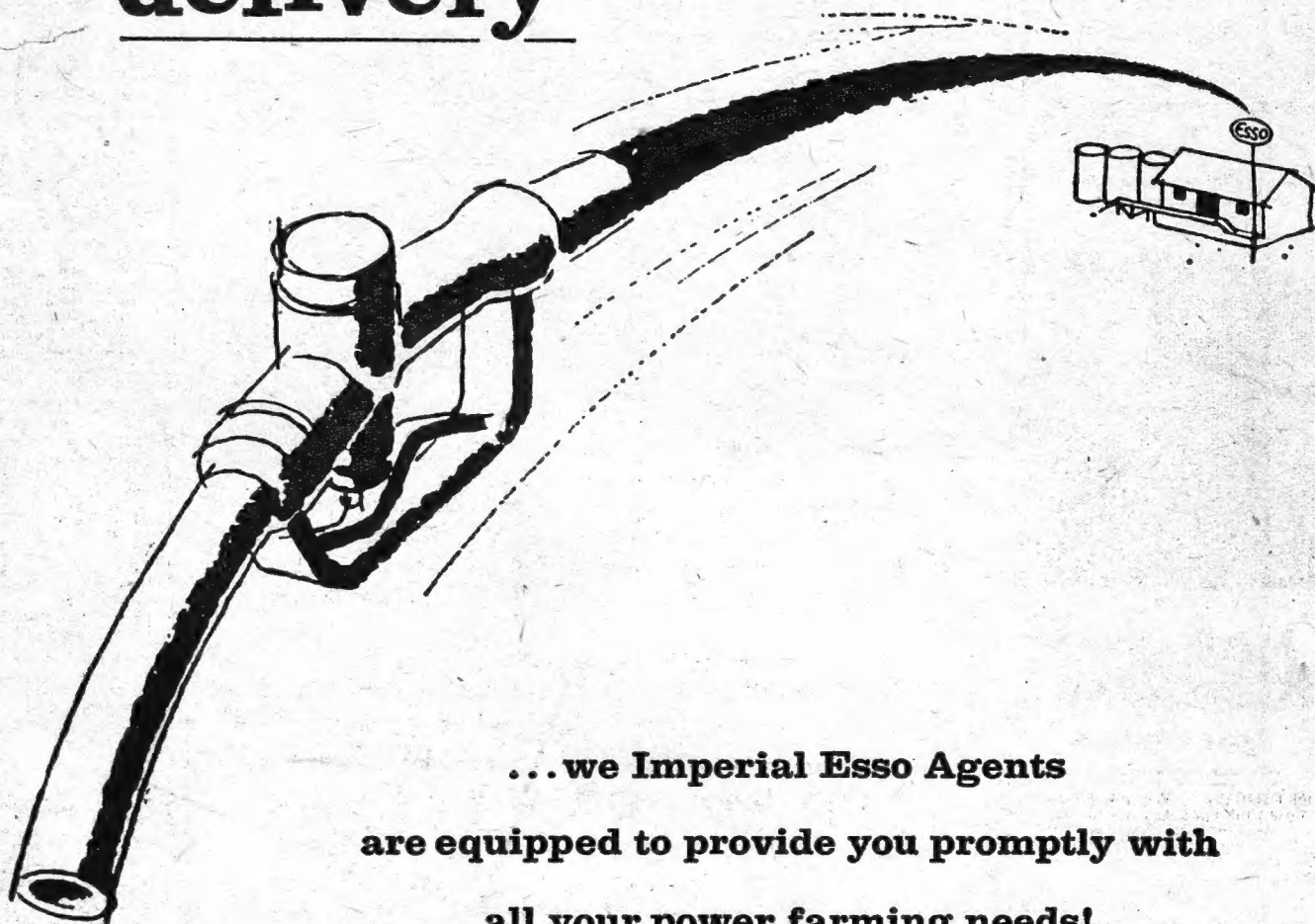
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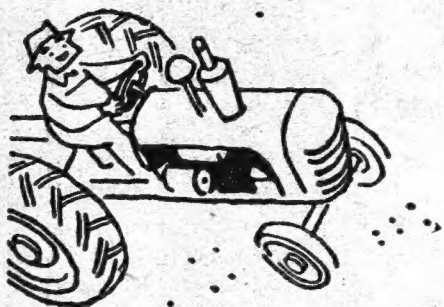


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